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BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st,

1959



1960

D. W. Jones (Printers) Ltd.,
Port Talbot 109862

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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health.

D. H. J. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (also Medical Officer of Health, Glyncorrwg Urban District Council and Divisional Medical Officer, Glamorgan County Council).

Chief Public Health Inspector.

G. A. MORGAN (C.R.S.H. as Public Health Inspector; C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector; C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector; C.R.S.H. School Hygiene and Physiology; Diploma, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene; Certificate, School Hygiene, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene; Testamur Sanitary Science, University College of Wales). Fellow Royal Society of Health. Fellow Association of Public Health Inspectors.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

L. J. CARTER (C.S.I.B., as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector). Fellow Association of Public Health Inspectors.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

I. G. HEYCOCK (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector).

L. MORGAN (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector, also Diploma as Smoke Inspector of Royal Society of Health).

W. CORNELIUS (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector, also Diploma as Smoke Inspector of Royal Society of Health).

D. H. W. GRIFFITHS (C.S.I.B. as Public Health Inspector and C.R.S.H. as Meat and Food Inspector).

DrainTester and Disinfector.

L. GEORGE.

Rodent Operative.

D. MAINWARING.

T. D. REES.

Clerk.

Miss A. M. REID.

Clerk.

Miss L. WILLIAMS.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1959.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Port Talbot.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the requirements of Circular 1/60 (Wales) from the Welsh Board of Health, I have pleasure in submitting for the consideration of Council, the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1959.

This year will be remembered by all as the year of the glorious summer. In Port Talbot it will be remembered as the year of the great drought. In the body of the report detailed reference is made to the Water Supplies. Suffice it therefore at this point to mention that at one time, with all available resources—some far from ideal—being drawn into supply, the population in the greater part of the Borough were reduced to but four hours supply per day. The tremendous fluctuations in water pressures and rates of flow caused sediments of iron oxide to appear in the taps of many, making even the limited water that was available appear uninviting and unpalatable. The requirements of industry were met albeit at reduced pressures.

Detailed particulars are included on this occasion of the Municipal Swimming Baths as required in paragraph seven of the beforementioned Circular.

All details required under the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959, have been included in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of this report.

Similarly detailed particulars of the efforts of your Officers in the field of slum clearance have also been incorporated in that section. It only needs to be noted here that the administrative work relating to the Council's Second year programme was effectively completed in respect of Green Park Street, Talbot Street, Cwmavon Road and Pantdu.

The re-housing of families displaced as a result of the first year programme referred to in the last annual report is being undertaken, eighty-five such families already having been dealt with by the end of the year.

The Municipal caravan site is now in the care of the resident Warden and although many difficult problems remain, the conditions are generally improved. Use of the site is made of by three types of resident. First, the summer holiday maker. Second, the contractor's men who move in and out with their jobs, third, the permanent caravan dweller. This group can be subdivided into two, the young couple or family who prefer to live on their own, even in a caravan, to sharing homes with parents and in-laws frequently under overcrowded conditions, and finally

the problematic family, who may for various reasons have been evicted from homes of their own or who gravitate into a caravan site due to an unstable background. These require very careful surveillance and support as they do not readily fit into any community.

The year saw a speeding up and extension of the Poliomyelitis Vaccination Programme. It is pleasing to report that over twenty-two thousand, three hundred protective injections were given. During the year at the Royal Society of Health Congress, the Chairman of your Public Health Committee and the writer had the opportunity of hearing Professor Salk himself lecture on the Salk Vaccine. Although further reference will be made to the subject in the report, it should be mentioned that much of the work done would have been impossible without the very full and ready support given to us by local industrial concerns. Without hesitation they placed all their facilities at our disposal and staff members and operatives were allowed time from their posts to attend for their protective injections.

Reference is made to the surprisingly negative report of the Committee set up to study the Sewage Contamination of Bathing Beaches in England and Wales.

I would like to conclude my address by expressing my thanks to all members of Council and my fellow officers in all departments for their support and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. J. WILLIAMS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Dept.,
Park House,
Theodore Road,
Port Talbot.

Port Talbot 2137/8.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1959.

Area of Borough (inclusive of foreshore)	25,648 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimated mid-year, 1959)	48,680
Rateable value at 31st March, 1959	£927,492
Product of Penny Rate for year ended 31st March, 1959	£3,808
Rainfall in inches at Town Centre	32.36
Number of Houses erected in 1959	319
(i) By Local Authority	256
(ii) By other Bodies or Persons	63
Number of houses connected to Corporation Mains Water Supply	15,000
Number of houses supplied from standpipes	Approx. 30
Average daily consumption of water per person in gallons	25

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	448	463	911
Illegitimate	13	10	23
Total number of live births	461	473	934

	Crude	Adjusted
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	19.19	18.23
Live birth rate for England and Wales ...	16.5	—

Illegitimate Live Births. Per Cent of total Live Births 2.46

Still Births.

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	14	11	25
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of stillbirths	14	11	25

Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	26.07
Total Live and Still Births	959

The following table is of interest :—

Number of live births at home in the Borough	387
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Neath General Hospital	462
Number of live births (Port Talbot mothers) at Bridgend General and other hospitals	86

Of all live births 59% occurred in hospital. In 1958 the percentage of births in hospital was 57 and in 1957, 55.

Hospital Maternity Beds.

The high birth rate in the Borough has placed quite a strain on the maternity services and the demand for hospital confinement continues to be high. After several meetings with the obstetric staff at both Neath and Bridgend Hospitals, it became possible to increase the number of places at Neath from forty to forty-eight each month and at Bridgend from five to eight. The Neath increase became effective in July and the Bridgend increase in September. It should be pointed out that the place figures given above applies to the Health Division as a whole. The benefit is thus shared by your neighbours in Glyncoed and the Parish of Michaelstone Higher in the Rural District of Neath.

The bed allocation chart below gives particulars of the applications received together with the number of refusals each month.

Applications for Non-Emergency Hospital Beds.

Patients due to be confined during	1957.		1958.		1959.	
	Applic- ations rec.	No. ref.	Applic- ations rec.	No. ref.	Applic- ations rec.	No. ref.
January	60	15	65	19	53	8
February	54	9	55	9	51	5
March	62	17	88	41	67	24
April	58	13	47	2	53	10
May	55	10	67	20	73	29
June	55	10	45	—	46	1
July	57	12	56	9	66	9
August	52	17*	69	18	63	9
September	59	34*	63	19	56	3
October	49	8*	65	16	53	—
November	46	1	62	15	51	—
December	53	8	51	5	56	1

* Maternity Department at Neath General Hospital being re-decorated.

Deaths.

Deaths from all causes in the area (Male 293
Female 197) 490

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population
Crude, 10.07 Adjusted 13.29

Death rate for England and Wales Crude 11.6

The death rate for the past nine years is summarised below:—

1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
10.89	10.57	10.52	10.95	9.97	11.09	9.57	12.39	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There were no deaths from puerperal causes during 1959.

Infant Mortality.

Neonatal deaths—19. Neonatal death rate per 1,000 live births—20.34.

Cause of death	First 24 hours of life	One day— One week	One week— One month
Heart failure—congenital heart disease—prematurity	—	—	1
Rhesus incompatibility — prematurity	1	—	—
Prematurity	4	2	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	1
Congenital heart disease	—	1	—
Asphyxia Neonatorum— prematurity	1	—	—
Acute Cardiac failure—intra- ventricular septal defect	—	1	—
Cerebral trauma and pre- maturity	—	1	—
Acute haemorrhagic pneu- monia—prematurity	—	1	—
Anencephaly	1	—	—
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Primary atelectasis	1	—	—
Broncho pneumonia—surgical operation—Tracheo Oesophageal fistula	—	1	—
Total	9	7	3

Deaths during one month to one year of age—5.

Broncho pneumonia, meningomyelocele	1
Pneumonitis, achondroplasia	1
Cachexia, pneumonia, fibrocystic disease of the pancreas	1
Severe head injury with severe cerebral concussion and fractured right ribs	1
Hydrocephalus, spina bifida	1

For comparison purposes I append below the Infant Mortality rate for the Borough for the last ten years :—

1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
26.95	37.92	38.93	28.31	34.21	22.78	19.4	29.06	30.6	33.8

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths (under 1 year)	24
Rate per 1,000 total live births	25.7
Legitimate infant deaths	23
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.2
Illegitimate infant deaths	1
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	43.47

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

Total neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks)	19
Rate per 1,000 total live births	20.34

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

Total early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week)	16
Rate per 1,000 total live births	17.1

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

Total still-births and deaths under 1 week (combined)	41
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	42.7

Maternal Mortality (including Abortion).

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	Nil

Deaths (all Ages).

The main causes of death in the Borough during 1959 were:—

1. Cardiovascular conditions	154
2. Cancers of various kinds	93
3. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	71
4. Respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis and Cancer)	62
5. Accidents	28

There were 22 deaths due to cancer of the lung, 19 amongst males and 3 amongst females.

This compares with:—13 deaths (11 males, 2 females) in 1958.

Of the one hundred and fifty-four deaths from cardiovascular conditions, 74 were attributed to coronary disease. 52 men and 22 women died of coronary disease. In the previous year there were 65 deaths from coronary disease, 35 being males and 30 being females.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS DURING 1959
as recorded by the Registrar General.

	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	—
2 Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3 Syphilitic disease	1	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections	1	—
7 Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10 Cancer of stomach	7	5
11 Cancer of lung	19	3
12 Cancer of breast	—	5
13 Cancer of uterus	—	3
14 Other forms of cancer	29	21
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1
16 Diabetes	1	2
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	42
18 Coronary disease, angina	52	22
19 Hypertension with heart disease	5	6
20 Other heart disease	21	21
21 Other circulatory disease	19	8
22 Influenza	6	2
23 Pneumonia	11	7
24 Bronchitis	26	5
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	3
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	6	3
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	6	5
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	21	18
33 Motor vehicle accidents	9	6
34 All other accidents	8	5
35 Suicide	2	2
36 Homicide and operations of war	—	—

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1959.

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1959.												
	Estimated Population 1959	Number of Births	BIRTHS		Number of Deaths	DEATHS		INFANT MORTALITY		NEO-NATAL MORTALITY		
			Rate per 1,000 Population Crude	Adjusted		Rate per 1,000 Population Crude	Adjusted	Deaths under 1 Year	Rate per 1000 Live Births	Deaths under 4 weeks	Rate per 1000 Live Births	
England & Wales		750,170	16.5	—	527,574	11.6	—	16,471	22.00	—	—	
Administrative County	746,300	12,122	16.24	16.08	8,915	11.95	13.86	341	28.13	—	—	
Urban Districts	535,900	8,720	16.27	15.94	6,438	12.01	13.93	251	28.78	255	21.04	
Rural Districts	210,400	3,402	16.17	16.49	2,477	11.77	13.54	90	26.46	188	21.56	
HEALTH DIVISION.												
CONSTITUENT DISTRICTS.												
Aberdare and Mountain Ash—												
Aberdare Urban	39,610	554	13.99	14.41	575	14.52	14.96	15	27.08	11	19.86	
Mountain Ash Urban	30,540	520	17.03	16.86	357	11.69	14.03	14	26.92	14	26.92	
Caerphilly and Gelligaer—												
Caerphilly Urban	37,810	637	16.85	16.01	404	10.69	13.90	24	37.68	17	26.69	
Gelligaer Urban	36,200	648	17.90	18.44	390	10.77	13.57	18	27.78	16	24.69	
Mid-Glamorgan—												
Bridgend Urban	14,780	277	18.74	17.80	166	11.23	12.13	4	14.44	3	10.83	
Maesteg Urban	22,610	349	15.44	15.44	286	12.65	15.94	13	37.25	9	25.79	
Ogmore & Garw Urban	22,010	361	16.40	16.40	257	11.68	14.13	8	22.16	5	13.85	
Porthcawl Urban	10,550	148	14.03	13.89	134	12.70	11.81	5	33.78	5	33.78	
Penybont Rural	37,610	714	18.98	19.74	513	13.64	13.50	16	22.41	11	15.41	
Neath and District—												
Neath M.B.	31,110	474	15.24	14.17	381	12.25	13.84	13	27.43	8	16.88	
Neath Rural	41,480	606	14.61	14.32	489	11.79	14.86	15	24.75	9	14.85	
Pontypridd and Llantrisant—												
Llantrisant Rural	26,110	461	17.66	16.95	277	10.61	13.58	17	36.88	13	28.20	
Pontypridd Urban	37,460	590	15.75	15.12	528	14.10	14.38	16	27.12	12	20.34	
Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg—												
Glyncoirwg Urban	10,030	189	18.84	18.46	114	11.37	16.26	10	52.91	7	37.04	
Port Talbot M.B.	48,680	934	19.19	18.23	490	10.07	13.29	24	25.70	19	20.34	
South East Glamorgan—												
Barry M.B.	42,310	802	18.96	18.20	438	10.35	11.39	17	21.20	13	16.21	
Cardiff Rural	42,470	705	16.60	16.93	507	11.94	11.70	16	22.70	13	18.44	
Cowbridge M.B.	990	9	9.09	9.45	11	11.11	11.58	1	111.11	1	111.11	
Cowbridge Rural	19,150	339	17.70	19.65	144	7.52	13.08	10	29.50	8	23.60	
Penarth Urban	19,480	290	14.89	14.74	255	13.09	12.04	8	27.59	5	17.24	
West Glamorgan—												
Gower Rural	12,000	161	13.42	14.09	151	12.58	11.70	4	24.84	3	18.63	
Pontardawe Rural	31,580	416	13.17	13.30	396	12.54	13.67	12	28.85	10	24.04	
Llchwyr Urban	25,730	364	14.15	14.43	314	12.20	14.27	8	21.98	5	13.74	
Rhondda—												
Rhondda M.B.	106,000	1,574	14.85	14.55	1,338	12.62	14.64	53	33.67	38	24.14	
Public Health Department, County Hall, Cardiff												

Public Health Department, County Hall, Cardiff.

2nd May, 1960.

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PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease during 1959 as compared with 1956, 1957 and 1958.

Disease	1956	1957	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	48	27	140	54
Whooping Cough	131	107	9	5
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Measles	63	1156	115	702
Meningococcal Infection	4	3	3	1
Dysentery	4	4	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	1	—	1
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B.	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	2	3	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	2	1	—
Food Poisoning	3	3	2	4
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (infectious)	—	—	—	—

Distribution by Wards.

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Polio	Pul. T.B.	Non-Pul. T.B.
Margam West	5	—	18	—	—	—
Margam Central	10	—	20	—	—	—
Margam North	5	—	23	—	1	—
Aberavon South	19	4	459	—	14	2
Aberavon North	14	—	24	—	4	2
Cwmavon	1	1	158	—	2	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.

For several years attention has been drawn to the alternating high and low annual incidence of measles. The year 1959 saw a raised incidence, the notifications amounting to 702. This was considerably lower than previous peak years. For instance, 1957 gave 1,156 notifications whilst 1955 gave 1,132 notifications.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the period under review.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The poliomyelitis vaccination drive was carried out during 1959 with undiminished vigour. The records held in the department show that a total of 22,319 injections were given. A total of 6,824 completed a course of two injections, whilst 8,386 received booster doses. The total number of booster doses given in this area by the end of 1959 amounted to 11,545.

In addition to the above, 968 applicants had started their course of injections and had received one injection whilst on the 31st December, 92 more had requested and were waiting for their primary injection.

The remarks under this heading would not be complete if reference was not made to the excellent spirit of co-operation manifested by those responsible for the various industrial and business concerns in the area. Without hesitation the medical and ambulance or staff rest rooms were placed at our disposal, and staff members allowed to attend during working hours. I am quite sure that this friendly co-operation ensured the vaccination and protection of thousands who might otherwise not have been able to take advantage of the facilities. The Continental shift method of working did tax our ingenuity in arranging second and booster injections but by careful juggling of staff and sessions between matched pairs of Ambulance Rooms even the "continental" was understood and mastered.

Tuberculosis — B.C.G. Vaccination.

This valuable form of protection against tuberculosis was made available to a further age group of school leavers, this being the fifth year of the scheme.

The parents of 547 children agreed to the procedure and the children were given the preliminary skin test. Of this number 473 were found to need vaccination of which 467 submitted to and were duly vaccinated.

Those children who gave a positive reaction to the skin test were invited to the Chest Clinic where they were duly X-rayed. Two were found to have lesions suspiciously of recent origin and activity and appropriate early treatment was thus possible.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the period under review 583 children received their primary course of injections, 428 of these being under the age of one year. Some 538 older children were given their booster injections.

Whooping Cough.

Five children were notified as suffering from Whooping Cough during 1959. The number given protective injections amounted to 730.

Smallpox Vaccination.

Due in no small measure to the work of Health Education carried out by Doctors and Health Visitors, the very creditable number of vaccinations carried out in the division during the year came to 611 of which 493 were in children under the age of one year.

Tuberculosis.

I append below particulars of the number of cases on the tuberculosis register at the beginning and at the end of the year, together with details of the notifications broken down into the various age groups.

Number of cases on Register on 1st January, 1959—539.

	Males	Females
Pulmonary	228	245
Non-Pulmonary	29	37
Total	257	282

Number of Cases on Register on 31st December, 1959—515.

	Males	Females
Pulmonary	223	234
Non-Pulmonary	28	30
Total	251	264

Number of New Notifications	25
No. of In-Transfers	8
Total	33
Number restored to Register	—
Total	33

Number left district	19
Number died	6
Number recovered	31
Number removed from Register — Diagnosis not confirmed	1
Total	57

New Cases during 1959 (formally notified):—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
Over 1 year and under 5 years	—	—	—	—
Over 5 years and under 10 years	—	—	—	—
Over 10 years and under 15 years	—	—	1	1
Over 15 years and under 20 years	—	1	—	—
Over 20 years and under 25 years	2	1	1	—
Over 25 years and under 35 years	4	—	—	—
Over 35 years and under 45 years	2	4	—	—
Over 45 years and under 55 years	1	—	1	—
Over 55 years and under 65 years	5	—	—	—
Over 65 years	1	—	—	—
Totals	15	6	3	1

Cases not formally notified

(taken from local Registrar's returns):—

	Pulmonary M.
Over 65 years	2 (died)

Disinfection.

A high proportion of cases of infectious illness are admitted to hospital for isolation and treatment. This is applicable in particular to Scarlet Fever, Meningococcal Infection, Dysentery, Peurperal Pyrexia, Paratyphoid B., Erysipelas, Poliomyelitis and, when the symptom and signs of a severe nature Food Poisoning.

Arrangements are made during the initial domiciliary investigation for disinfection of the room, bedding and necessary articles of the patient. The bedding, etc., is transported by the department's disinfection transport to and from the Groeswen Hospital where, by arrangement with the hospital authority, steam disinfection is carried out.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

As, in addition to being your Medical Officer of Health, I hold the appointment of Divisional Medical Officer for the Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg Health Division, I am in the fortunate position of administering the day to day activities of the Divisional personnel. For the information of Council, I give below statistical details of the work carried out in the various fields of endeavour.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

Total domiciliary confinements	493
Doctor present	28
Gas and Air given	310
Pethidine given	241
Trilene given	152

Domiciliary Nursing Service.

Total number of patients	1,507
Types of cases :	
Medical	1,044
Surgical	352
Infectious Diseases	1
Tuberculosis	97
Maternal Complications	10
Total number of visits	44,997

Medical Comforts.

Total Issues	541
Greatest demand:	
Air Rings	76
Bed Pans	88
Bed Rests	83
Rubber Sheets	88
Male Urinals	37
Invalid Chairs	41

Home Help Service.

Total Part-Time and Casual Helps	52
Types of cases attended:	
Maternity	13
Tuberculosis	2
Chronic Sick (Including Aged and Infirm)	234
Other	16
Total	265
Costs Charged :	

Full Cost	No.		%
Part Cost	34	.....	13
Free	32	.....	12
	199	.....	75

Clinic Services.

Ante-Natal and Post Natal Clinics.

Total New Ante-Natal Cases	1,155
Total New Post-Natal Cases	117
Total Visits	6,641

Infant Welfare Clinics.

No. of Attendances during year:	
of Children under one year	14,195
of Children over one year but under two years	2,416
of Children over two years but under five years	3,540
Total	20,151

Health Visitors.

Visits to expectant mothers	862
Visits to children under one year	5,517
Visits to children over one year but under two years	3,061
Visits to children over two years but under five years	7,562
Visits to tuberculous households	1,555
Visits to other cases	1,132
Total	19,689

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Removal of Person in need of Care and Attention.

Although no new cases subject to be dealt with under the provision of the Act were brought to my attention, it was necessary to apply to the Court for extensions of the Order granted towards the end of 1958 in respect of an aged maiden lady who had been found living under conditions of severe adversity.

For several years this particular person had lived alone and although living in a terrace house on the main road, had become progressively more solitary in her habits. Lacking company and friends her mental faculties were dulled and she presented a truly pathetic figure. After several months residence in the Welfare Services Hostel, she improved to such an extent that she became master of all her faculties and was able to join in happily in the activities at the Hostel.

HOUSING.

During 1959, 319 permanent houses were completed of which 256 were built by the Council and 63 by other bodies or persons.

In order that easy comparison may be made I give below the figures for the past ten years in tabulated form.

Year.	Houses Completed by Local Authority.	Houses Completed by others.	Total
1959	256	63	319
1958	156	35	191
1957	454	48	502
1956	287	66	353
1955	420	63	483
1954	642	55	697
1953	630	32	662
1952	575	—	575
1951	505	—	505
1950	38	—	38

The waiting list for re-housing by the Local Authority remains high. At the end of 1959 the Housing Manager states that 1,550 names remained on his file.

This compares with the waiting list for previous years thus:—

December 31st, 1958	1,865
„ „ 1957	1,695
„ „ 1956	1,834
„ „ 1955	1,699
„ „ 1954	1,540
„ „ 1953	1,650
„ „ 1952	1,340
„ „ 1951	1,732
„ „ 1950	1,940

I give below a table that gives an indication of some of the special categories of applicants where re-housing was effected during the period under review.

Families suffering from or exposed to Tuberculosis	12
Families from Condemned Houses	85
Families from Squatters camps	1
Families from overcrowded houses	3
Key Workers in Industry	22

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding within the meaning of the Act were brought to the notice of the Department during the period under review.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During 1959 the resources and ingenuity of the Water Department were tested to the extreme. The wonderful summer weather will be remembered by the Department, not for its sunshine and the pleasure it gave to the thousands but by the frantic, well nigh desperate valve juggling that during the worst part of the drought provided water to the domestic taps for some four hours out of the daily twenty-four.

The Ffrwdwyllt abstraction, filtration and treatment scheme described in my Report for 1958 was brought into action and gave a valuable fillip to the dwindling supplies. Came the time that with all reserves turned into supply there was not enough available to meet the needs.

At this point a potential supply of some 250,000 gallons a day of water with a high iron and manganese content but otherwise sound and free from harmful bacteria was found issuing from the disused workings of the Glenhafod Colliery. The supply emerged directly under the Goytre Cemetery. This was obviously an aesthetic contra-indication but the difficulty was overcome by damming the water some hundreds of yards up the adit and piping out. The water after suitable treatment was then allowed to enter the Corporation mains.

As stated earlier domestic supplies to large areas of the borough were reduced to some four hours daily whilst that to industry was maintained albeit at reduced pressures.

The Neath Valley Reservoir scheme is now shelved in favour of an abstraction and treatment scheme. Water Undertakings are looking westwards into Carmarthenshire in the search for plentiful supplies to meet the domestic and industrial needs of the Area. Three major schemes are being debated, one in the valley of the Gwendraeth Fach coupled with an abstraction point in the River Towy, the second and third being the Lower and the Upper Cothi impounding schemes respectively. More on these schemes in the 1960 Report.

The careful vigilance on the purity of the water supplied through Corporation mains was maintained throughout the year by the Health Department. Regular bacteriological sampling and where necessary chemical sampling were carried out and details of these are incorporated in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of this Report.

This reference to the Borough Water problem would not be complete without recording a special emergency experiment carried out by the Borough Engineer. Briefly, water from the River Afan was pumped by mechanical means from an artificially constructed sump in the river bed through a surface pipe-line to the municipal baths. There the water was directed through the filtration plant and chlorinated prior to storage in the bath itself.

The idea was that after a suitable contact period in the bath the water would be sufficiently purified to be admitted into corporation mains.

Although a considerable improvement was effected in the quality of the water by this treatment process, I was unable to agree that the water was safe for admission into corporation mains and the scheme was abandoned. It did, however, serve to illustrate how desperate the position had become and how urgent the need for making provision for an adequate water supply.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The collection of Refuse is undertaken by the Borough Engineer's Department and varies from a once weekly to a once daily collection. With the progressive growth of the Borough, so this service has had to be adapted and expanded. To this end a fleet of specially constructed vehicles are maintained.

Disposal is by controlled tipping on suitable sites.

In my last report reference was made to the adoption of dust-bin receptacles for the housing of refuse prior to collection. Although it appears that the iron mongers in the Borough have plentiful stocks of regulation type dustbins with close fitting lids, the number of "adapted" paint drums, tin baths and buckets—without lids, of course—do not appear to be diminishing in any way. One solution, I suppose would be for the loaders to toss aboard all containers other than dustbins one street at a time after due warning to the residents of course. Consideration is, however, being given to more orthodox methods of educating the public to the use of proper dustbins.

The Borough Engineer tells me that much of the public lethargy in the purchase of regulation type dustbins is a legacy of the inter-war period of depression when improvisation was a necessity.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Shortly after the appearance of the Annual Report for 1958 in which reference was made to the increasing pollution of the Afan River estuary, the Report of the Medical Research Council on the sewage Contamination of Bathing Beaches was published.

This report, quite rightly as far as the evidence at its disposal would indicate, suggested that with the exception of certain grossly polluted beaches, no demonstrable danger to health existed in bathing in sewage polluted waters. It was pointed out that much work remained to be done in the field of food hygiene, etc.

The subject has also received prominence in various conferences, at least one of which was specially convened to this end. Much has been said for and against. Scathing and heated articles have been written and television programmes have been screened. The evidence so far negates a proved danger to health. This argument is, however, of small consolation to the bather suddenly confronted with a mass of faeces, or the family pick-nicking on the beach who unwarily sit on polluted sand.

The reaches of the River Afan below the main road bridge receives several outfalls. When the river flow is high, flushing is quick and there is little nuisance. When the flow is reduced, flushing is delayed and this creates a hazard to health. Apart from unpleasant odours, flies breed and feed and quickly invade neighbouring properties, food shops, etc. As I suggested last year it may well be time for Council to consider linking up the numerous outfalls into one channel. I am glad to note that this view is supported by your Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

The Corporation operates one indoor covered Public Swimming Bath. This is situated in Forge Road a short distance from the town centre. The Baths are open daily except Sundays.

Twenty yards long by ten yards wide the bath, tiled in white, ranges from a depth of three feet at the shallow end to seven feet at the deep end. A volume of some 56,000 gallons of water is contained in the bath and during the period of operation the water undergoes a change at the rate of some 14,000 gallons an hour, a complete change of water being effected within a four hour period.

Water losses are made up from the Corporation mains via the Baths filtration and purification plant, the water being fed in at the shallow end and drawn off for purification etc., at the deep end.

The water is purified by passing it through a two gang high pressure rapid filtration plant.

It is then chlorinated to a concentration of 2.0 parts per million and prior to being returned into the bath is heated to a temperature of approximately 80° Fahrenheit.

Apart from two changing rooms adjoining the bath house, twenty-three cubicles are situated in the bath house itself. Available within the entrance to the bath house is a shower and foot-bath.

The Municipal Swimming Bath is in great demand and during school terms morning and afternoon sessions are taken up by the Education Authority, the Bath is open to the public at other suitable times, male, female and mixed sessions being held.

Two male urinals and lavatories open off the main bath house whilst female toilets are placed adjacent to the changing rooms.

In addition to swimming, facilities are provided for individual baths. Three out of four slipper bathrooms with running hot and cold water are available for a small fee and an average of between twenty and twenty-five customers per week, mostly contractor's men in lodgings in the town, use these baths.

Regular samples for bacteriological examinations are taken. During 1959, nine samples were taken, the results of seven being satisfactory. Two samples did not attain the standard required. On each occasion the Borough Engineer was informed and repeat samples were found to be satisfactory.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Education.

The following information has been provided by Mr. Eben Jones, the Divisional Executive Officer :—

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Total average number of pupils attending primary and secondary schools in the Borough during 1959 | 8951 |
| 2. Total average number of pupils receiving school meals during 1959 | 2054 |
| 3. Total average number of pupils receiving milk in school during 1959 | 6745 |

Children's Department.

Miss Beti Jones, the Glamorgan County Council Children's Officer has kindly supplied the following details :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Number of children admitted to Children's Homes in 1959 | 5 |
| 2. Number of children admitted to Approved Schools in 1959 | 1 |

Juvenile Court.

Mr. P. H. R. Thomas, the Clerk to the Court, states that 244 children between the ages of eight and seventeen years were brought before the Juvenile Court during 1959.

Welfare Services. Part III—Accommodation.

Ten males and 9 females from Port Talbot were admitted to County Council Hostels during 1959.

Employment of Disabled Persons.

	Males.	Females.
Number Registered Disabled in Employment in December, 1959	567	34
Number Registered Disabled placed in Employment in 1959	68	—
Number Registered Disabled wholly Unemployed in December, 1959	34	4

I append below details of the unemployment figures for Port Talbot for the past ten years:—

	Males.	Females.
December, 1950	77	151
„ 1951	61	50
„ 1952	76	61
„ 1953	80	30
„ 1954	77	39
„ 1955	60	41
„ 1956	89	43
„ 1957	87	51
„ 1958	230	123
„ 1959	225	70

Industrial Medical and Amenity Services.

To illustrate the extent of the Industrial medical and amenity services provided by our major industrial concern, the Steel Company of Wales (Steel Division), the annual statistical details kindly provided by Mr. David J. Young, Director and Secretary of the company, are given. It is of particular interest to note the expansion that is going on apace, and this is reflected in the progressive increase in the labour strength employed.

1. Strength of Labour Employed (end, December, 1959).

Works Operative	13,506
Works Staff	2,375
General Office Staff	1,079
Monthly Paid Staff	667
	<hr/>
	17,627
	<hr/>

2. Percentage of Registered Disabled Persons.

2.91% at end of December, 1959.

3. Canteen Services—

- (a) Two staff canteens, one situated at Abbey providing facilities for weekly, monthly management and executive staff a total of 1,200 the other at Margam granting the same facilities totalling about 500.

- (b) The platter meal service, this was recently introduced as an experiment brought about by Messrs. Vendepac's withdrawal of their hot food service from nine outside messrooms. This service averages 750 meals per day.
- (c) Vendepac Automatic Machine Service. This service dispenses cigarettes, confectionery, hot and cold beverages, milk, hot and cold snacks and other miscellaneous items.

4. Welfare Activities:

Amenities:

Fourteen additional amenity blocks were completed during the year. This makes a total of 44 amenity blocks with dining rooms for staff and operatives plus lockers. Lockers have been issued to nearly all operatives. Because of the contraction in numbers of contractors, six contractors' canteens have been closed. For cleaning of amenities a staff of 180 women cleaners and 200 janitors are employed.

Safety and Welfare:

In addition to the Accident Prevention Committees on which members of the management and employees sit together, an increase in the number of Safety Officers employed ensures a wider coverage of accident prevention aspects.

A number of safety and operational manuals were published during the year.

The high level of activity at the Sports and Social Club has been maintained. Extension to the playing fields have been made and further extensions to facilities are under consideration.

BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year ended December 31st,

1959



BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Port Talbot.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration, my Annual Report for the year 1959. This is the twenty-fifth of a series of such reports that I have had the pleasure to provide upon the work of your Chief Public Health Inspector's Department.

There is, however, nothing revolutionary about this year's report, which follows the conventional lines. Progress there has been, so much so that whilst we continue to keep our administration running on an even keel, we are constantly called upon to adjust our activities to cope with the changing pattern of our work. No sooner has one assimilated some quite considerable change in administration than we find that new duties are introduced, or a fresh angle of approach to existing ones. The public in general are ready to accept these changes as progress; to your officers, however, it means constantly keeping our knowledge abreast of the times, and adjusting our administration accordingly.

I sometimes feel that it would be interesting if one could present a report devoid of statistics, but, containing a review of present conditions and dealing much more fully with a target to which we should aim in the administration of the environmental services of our town. The interests of the public are only served if we regard last year's achievements as a basis for improving our standards during the coming years, yet so often our Annual Reports tend to indicate what has gone before. There is, of course, some justification for pride in the strides that have already been made, but, all too often the recording of our achievements is apt to lull one into a false sense of security and the figures which form such a large part of our report can be misleading unless judged with an appreciation of their limitations.

The general public continue to look to your public health inspectors' department as the medium to solve all manner of environmental problems and troubles which arise in the home and its surroundings, at work and at play. Whilst dealing with these problems takes up quite a considerable amount of one's time, one cannot but have some satisfaction in the feeling that the ratepayers are becoming more appreciative of the fact that local government is something more than a rate-collecting agency.

The presentation of this report affords me an opportunity, once again, to thank Council and its Public Health Committee for their encouragement and support in pursuing the promotion of proper standards of environmental conditions within the Borough; of expressing my appreciation to the Chief Officers of Council Departments and to Dr. Williams, your Medical Officer of Health, and members of his department for their cordial co-operation throughout the year on matters of mutual interest. In particular, I would also like to thank members of my own department for their continued loyalty and good service.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. MORGAN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Report of Mr. G. A. Morgan, Chief Public Health Inspector
and Inspector under the Factories and Housing Acts.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Housing Inspections and re-inspections	2935
Structural Defects	2189
Drains, Yards, W.C's.	3493
Common Lodging Houses	58
Amusement Houses and Cinemas	61
Verminous Premises	494
Dirty Conditions	386
Accumulations	129
Ash Pits, Privies and Cesspools	38
Tents, Vans and Sheds	146
Dairies and Milk Shops	94
Food Premises, Kitchens and Vehicles	2821
Public Houses	84
Houses let in Lodgings, Tenements, etc.	71
Offensive Trades	54
Fish Fryers	47
Ice-cream Premises, etc.	193
Bakehouses	109
Factories	652
Schools	67
Pig-Styes and Pigs	148
Stables, Refuse and Manure	29
Rats and Mice	5707
Atmospheric Pollution	471
Animals improperly kept	36
Meat and Food Inspection	2641
Slaughterhouse	629
Water Supplies	374
Water Sampling	345
Food and Drugs Sampling	353
Milk Sampling	89
Other Nuisances	76
Public Conveniences	101
Interviews	811
Infectious Diseases	94
Police Court Attendances	10
Shops, Offices, etc.	804
Overcrowding	33
Total	<u>26872</u>

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	804
Number of visits of inspection in respect of same.....	2485
Number of houses found unfit for human habitation	107
Number of houses found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation	374
Number of houses rendered fit after service of Notices	491

Some of the houses found not in all respects fit for habitation in the latter part of 1959 would not be rendered fit until sometime in 1960, whereas some of the houses rendered fit in 1959 followed notices served in the latter part of 1958.

The number of nuisances discovered, together with the number of Notices served during the year were as follows :—

Nature of Inspection	Nuisances discovered	Informal Notices served	Abatement Notices served
Structural defects	219	219	96
Drains, Yards, W.C's.	291	291	107
Dirty Conditions	29	29	4
Pig Styes and Swine Keeping	24	24	3
Water Supplies	87	87	32
Food Premises	25	25	—
Atmospheric Pollution	3	3	—
Rats and Mice	584	13	for rat proofing.
Accumulations	26	26	—
Verminous infestations	27	27	—
Overcrowding—Housing Acts	1	1	—
Factories	17	17	—
Tenements	11	11	3
Dairies	2	2	—
Stables, Manure and Refuse	8	8	1
Animals improperly kept	6	6	2
Shops and Offices	16	16	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	8	8	1
Offensive Trades	2	2	—
Schools	1	1	—
Totals	1387	816	253

The work carried out to abate the various nuisances and contraventions was as follows:—

Nature of work done:

Houses :

Walls repointed 11; Walls repaired 25; Outside plastering repaired 14; Inside plastering repaired 89; Floors renewed or repaired 27; Floors ventilated 2; Roofs renewed or repaired 74; Chutes, downpipes or gutters repaired or renewed 66; Chimneys repaired 13; Ceilings repaired 36; doors and frames repaired 19; Lighting and ventilation of rooms improved 3;

Window sashes or frames renewed or repaired 78; Window cords renewed 39; Staircases repaired 7; Grates or ovens provided or repaired 17; Boilers provided or repaired 4; Food stores provided or improved 6; Outbuildings repaired 9; Walls or ceilings cleansed and redecorated 8; Bedding cleansed or destroyed 19; Rooms treated for vermin 29; Yard paving relaid or repaired 26; Nuisances from animals abated 6; Accumulations removed 26; Water supply provided 7; Water taps or pipes renewed 64; Weatherboards repaired or renewed 9; Yard gates repaired or renewed 15; Dirty conditions eradicated 29; Ventilation improved 3; Window cills renewed or repaired 11; Skirting boards repaired or renewed 28; Miscellaneous repairs 14.

Drainage :

Drains tested (smoke) 31; Drains tested (chemicals) 24; Drains relaid 21; Drains repaired or altered 44; Drains cleansed 47; inspection or intercepting chambers provided or repaired 6; intercepting traps fixed 7; soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed or repaired 16; New drains laid 5; gullies fixed 5; Sinks trapped or wastepipes repaired 5; Bath wastes trapped or repaired 5; Wash-up sinks provided 6; Washhand basins trapped or wastepipes repaired 12.

Toilets and Fittings, etc. :

W.C's. reconstructed 5; Lighting and ventilation improved 10; New pans and traps fixed 21; W.C's cleansed 6; flushing apparatus provided 14; Flushing apparatus repaired 17; Miscellaneous repairs 17; Seats repaired or renewed 15; Dilapidated W.C's abolished 2; Water supply made sufficient 14.

Cesspools :

Cleansed 14; Other repairs 4.

Common Lodging Houses :

Accumulations removed 1; Redecoration of premises 1.

Amusement Houses and Cinemas, etc.:

Ventilation improved 1; Other repairs 6.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :

No. of houses infested with bed bugs 37; No. of houses disinfested by (a) Occupier 27; (b) Local Authority 10.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops :

Limewashed dairy 2; Redecoration of dairy 2; Improved washing facilities 1.

Food Shops, Kitchens, etc. :

Accumulations removed 2; Cleanliness improved 7; Storage arrangements provided 4; Ashbins provided 1; Washup sinks fixed 4; Water supplies provided 5; Other repairs 4; Floors and yards repaired 4; Walls repaired 1; Roofs, chutes and downpipes repaired 4; Drains cleansed 1; Washing facilities provided and improved 6; other sources of contamination removed 3.

Hotels and Public Houses :

Rooms redecorated 14; Ceilings redecorated 14; Doors repaired or renewed 6; Windows repaired or renewed 6; Cellar walls rendered 5; Cellar floors renewed or repaired 5; Provision of intervening ventilated space to toilets 1.

Food Vehicles :

Warnings regarding general cleanliness of vehicles, person or coverings 3; Warnings re: name and address 5; New vehicles provided 2.

Fried Fish Shops :

Storage accommodation improved 1; New ranges fitted 1; Washup sinks provided 1; Cleansing carried out 2; Drainage improved 1; Preparation room redecorated 2.

Factories :

Cleansing carried out 10; Separate W.C. accommodation provided 4; Accumulation removed 2; Floors drained 3.

Schools :

W.C's cleansed 4; W.C's repaired 2; Urinals cleansed 4; Urinals repaired 1.

Pigstyes :

Piggeries properly drained 14; Cesspools cleansed or repaired 2; Structures repaired or improved 6; Lime washing carried out 4; Other nuisances abated 5; Pig keeping discontinued 7.

Stables, Refuse and Manure :

Accumulations removed 1; Stables cleansed and drained 1.

Miscellaneous :

Animal carcasses buried 3; Flooding abated 3.

Rats and Mice :

Infestations removed 584; Rat and mice proofing carried out 13; Houses baited 492.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

An important part of the duties of your Public Health Inspectors is the inspection of meat at the Public Abattoir. Here the Inspector is on duty before slaughtering commences and does not leave the premises until slaughtering has discontinued. The methods and criteria of meat inspection recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are strictly complied with. The quantity of diseased and unsound meat condemned at the Abattoir during the year, was as follows:—

Bulls, Bullocks and Heifers.

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Hinds	2	Stomachs	19
Fores	4	Spleen	1
Heads and Tongues	47	Heart	1
Livers	19	Skirt	1
Mesenteries and Intestines	59	Carcases and all organs	2
Lungs	79		

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

15 Heads and Tongues	—	5 C. Bovis; 10 Actinomycosis.
59 Lungs	—	30 Pleurisy; 7 Cysts; 8 Abscess; 12 Congested; 1 Pneumonia; 1 Carcinoma.
22 Hearts	—	16 Pericarditis; 6 C. Bovis.
268 Part Livers	—	258 Distomatosis; 8 Cirrhosis; 2 Parasitic.
285 Livers	—	251 Distomatosis; 15 Abscess; 6 Cirrhosis; 8 Necrosis; 4 Angiomata; 1 Cysts.
15 Spleens	—	15 Peritonitis.
8 Kidneys	—	3 Abscess; 5 Nephritis.
12 Skirts	—	9 Pleurisy; 3 Abscess.
15 Omentums and Stomachs	—	11 C. Bovis; 4 Peritonitis.
16 Mesenteries and Intestines	—	11 C. Bovis; 5 Peritonitis.
4 Suets	—	4 Peritonitis.
1 Tail	—	1 Bruising.

Cows.

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Nil.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

1 Mesenteries and Intestines — 1 Jöhnes Disease.

Calves.

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Nil.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

3 Livers. — 2 Degenerated; 1 Abscess.
4 Lungs. — 2 Pneumonia; 2 Congested.

Sheep.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

13 Carcases and all offals	—	1 Emaciation; 2 Dead on arrival; 6 Dropsy and Emaciation; 4 Bruising.
4 Legs	—	3 Bruising; 1 Arthritis.
2 Shoulders	—	2 Bruising.
965 Lungs	—	554 Strongyli; 238 Congested; 88 Pneumonia; 25 Pleurisy; 51 Cysts; 8 Parasitic; 1 Melanosis.
26 Hearts	—	5 Cysts; 14 Pericarditis; 1 Parasitic; 6 Haemorrhagic.
1190 Livers	—	449 Distomatosis; 645 Parasitic; 3 Peritonitis; 71 Cysts; 18 Degenerated; 1 Cirrhosis; 3 Abscesses.
39 Kidneys	—	31 Nephritis; 8 Oedema.
4 Suets	—	4 Fat Necrosis.
2 Plucks	—	1 Cysts; 1 Abscess.
1 Mesenteries and Intestines	—	1 Cyst.
1 Head and Tongue	—	1 Injury.

Pigs.

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Heads and Tongues	48	Mesenteries and Intestines.....	16
Stomachs	16		

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

4 Legs	—	2 Abscess; 2 Rickets.
586 Lungs	—	243 Congested; 324 Pneumonia; 19 Pleurisy.
1 Fore Leg	—	1 Abscess.
148 Livers	—	9 Cysts; 116 Cirrhosis; 6 Peritonitis; 15 Necrosis; 2 Degenerated.
27 Hearts	—	27 Pericarditis.
50 Kidneys	—	38 Nephritis; 4 Cysts; 8 Oedema.
4 Spleens	—	4 Peritonitis.
3 Stomachs	—	3 Peritonitis.
3 Mesenteries and Intestines	—	3 Peritonitis.

The percentage figures for the various diseases over a period of years are as follows:—

Tuberculosis.

Year.	Cattle excluding		Sheep and		
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.
1947	5.39	22.0	.103	—	5.0
1948	4.13	29.2	.066	—	4.8
1949	12.86	29.5	.109	—	6.8
1950	11.2	24.4	.026	—	5.2
1951	8.63	30.6	.036	—	12.8
1952	7.41	20.57	.051	—	13.17
1953	7.98	15.74	.074	—	7.53
1954	4.63	9.14	.08	—	5.26
1955	7.79	8.21	—	—	3.64
1956	7.55	8.93	—	—	3.11
1957	3.53	16.66	.25	—	1.24
1958	6.22	20.0	—	—	2.36
1959	16.25	—	—	—	2.4

Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Year.	Cattle excluding		Sheep and		
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.
1947	44.5	25.5	.9	20.9	14.9
1948	39.5	62.8	.84	37.4	24.7
1949	48.0	56.8	1.34	41.36	34.5
1950	57.1	66.1	3.6	45.1	43.4
1951	58.19	62.2	5.5	50.0	53.99
1952	64.71	76.04	7.05	46.8	52.5
1953	53.0	63.3	5.26	43.75	50.3
1954	53.1	68.57	5.66	32.04	53.32
1955	40.2	80.67	6.6	18.24	26.25
1956	54.16	69.64	3.22	18.3	7.7
1957	48.82	84.72	3.51	19.88	27.04
1958	48.22	53.33	1.70	28.11	31.73
1959	50.7	50.0	2.0	21.3	27.6

Bovine Cysticercosis.

Year	CATTLE OTHER THAN COWS.			COWS.		
	Examined	Affected	Percentage	Examined	Affected	Percentage
1949	1591	38	2.7	637	7	1.1
1950	2003	64	3.19	1078	43	3.99
1951	2629	66	2.51	677	8	1.19
1952	2171	75	3.45	409	10	2.24
1953	1991	38	1.91	578	6	1.03
1954	2590	33	1.27	525	4	0.76
1955	2015	20	0.99	207	4	1.93
1956	1549	18	1.17	56	1	1.78
1957	1415	19	1.34	72	—	—
1958	1012	23	2.27	15	—	—
1959	785	11	1.4	2	—	—

As is well known tuberculosis in cattle was all too frequently encountered in the past, but, with the progress of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods attested herds scheme, the incidence of disease fell correspondingly. On the 1st October, 1959, the whole of Glamorgan was declared an attested area. There was no animal carcase condemned as a result of generalised tuberculosis, but, organs, etc., condemned, show a slight increase over the previous years. I suspect, however, that this may have some relation to the origin of such cattle. There was a decrease, however, in the number of cattle affected with *Cysticercosis Bovis*.

**UNSOUND OR UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED
OR SURRENDERED FROM FOOD PREMISES
THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH DURING THE YEAR
was as follows :—**

During the year the total weight of foodstuffs condemned, not including food condemned at the Abattoir, amounted to 1 ton, 5 cwts., 1 qtr., 1 lb., 9½ ozs.

The number of tins containing condemned food, amounted to 1479 and they can be classified as follows.

Tinned Fruit.

235 tins of Plums—264 lbs. 10½ ozs.; 3 tins of Loganberries—1 lb. 8 ozs.; 5 tins of Strawberries—4 lb. 13 ozs.; 53 tins of Oranges—28 lb. 9 ozs.; 33 tins of Apricots—37 lbs. 7 ozs.; 1 tin of Raspberries—14 ozs.; 12 tins of Fruit Salad—11 lbs. 5 ozs.; 22 tins of Grapefruit—33 lbs.; 133 tins of Pears—227 lbs. 9 ozs.; 193 tins of Peaches—268 lbs. 13 ozs.; 8 tins of Cherries—8 lbs. 12 ozs.; 112 tins of Pineapples—120 lbs. 14 ozs.; 189 tins of tomatoes—189 lbs. 8 ozs.; 1 tin of Blackcurrants 11½ ozs.; 4 tins of Damsons—1 lb.; 1 tin of Grapefruit Juice—1 lb. 8ozs.; 3 tins of Tomato Juice—2 lbs. 8 ozs.

Tinned Milk.

2 tins of Cream—12 ozs.; 1 tin of Ideal Milk—¾ pints; 6 tins of Condensed Milk—6 lbs. 14 ozs.; 11 tins of Evaporated Milk—4¼ pints.

Tinned Vegetables.

11 tins of Baked Beans—3 lb. 7 ozs.; 23 tins of Peas—28 lbs. 6 ozs.; 1 tin of Broad Beans—16 ozs.; 15 tins of Carrots—16 lbs. 4 ozs.; 2 jars of Beetroot—1 lb.; 1 tin of Mixed Vegetables—2 lbs.

Tinned Soups.

2 tins of Scotch Broth—2 lbs.; 1 tin of Mushroom Soup—1 lb.; 2 tins of Cream of Tomato Soup—1 lb. 8ozs.; 1 tin of Celery Soup—10 ozs.; 2 tins of Tomato Soup—1 lb. 5 ozs.; 3 tins of Irish Stew—3 lbs.; 1 tin of Mock Turtle—15½ ozs.; 3 tins of Vegetable Soup—2 lbs. 11 ozs.

Fish.

12 tins of Pilchards—11 lbs. 12 ozs.; 37 tins of Salmon—10 lbs. 8 ozs.; 1 large tin of Sardines; 4 tins of Shrimps—14 ozs.; 7 lbs. of Frozen Plaice; 1½ lbs. of Tuna; 1 stone of Hake; 1 stone of Cod.

Tinned Meat.

3 tins of Pork Shoulders—33 lbs.; 3 tins of Ham Shoulders—30 lbs.; 55 tins of Ham—462 lbs.; 53 tins of Corned Beef—108 lbs. 8 ozs.; 47 tins of Luncheon Meat—56 lbs. 8 ozs.; 19 tins of Tongue—33 lbs.; 4 ozs.; 9 tins of Chopped Pork—25 lbs. 6 ozs.; 30 tins of Stewed Steak—25 lbs. 4 ozs.; 12 tins of Minced Beef Loaf—9 lbs.; 5 tins of Hamburgers—4 lbs.; 2 tins of Beef Slices—2 lbs.; 3 tins of Irish Stew—3 lbs.; 10 tins of Steak and Kidney Pie—9 lbs. 8 ozs.; 2 tins of Steak in Gravy—2 lbs.; 11 tins of Spam—8 lbs. 6 ozs.; 1 tin of Cambridge Steak—1 lb.; 1 tin of Ham and Tongue—8 ozs.; 3 tins of Cooked Gammon—3 lbs.; 1 tin of Meat Loaf—12 ozs.; 1 tin of Roast Pork—1 lb. 12 ozs.; 2 lbs. of Palonies and Sausage; 4 lbs. of Pork Pies; 14 lbs. of Pigs Kidneys; 2 tins of Chicken 98 lbs.

Raw Meat and Poultry.

2 Chickens—8 lbs. 8 ozs.; 1 Part Hindquarter of Beef—120 lbs.; 1 Part Hindquarter of Chilled Beef—141 lbs.; 13½ lbs. of Home Cured Bacon; 2 lbs. of Veal; 4 lbs. of Tongue; 9 lbs. of Sausage; 14 lbs. of Bacon and Ham; 19½ lbs. of Roast Pork.

Miscellaneous.

176 lbs. of Cheese; 1 jar of Marmalade—2 lbs.; 3 tins of Frozen eggs—42 lbs.; 2 tins of Sago—2 lbs.; 8 tins of Rice—7 lb. 6 ozs.; 3 tins of Spaghetti—2 lbs. 8 ozs.; 1 tin of Creamed Sago Pudding—1 lb.; 1 tin of Rice Pudding—1 lbs.; 23 tins of Nescafe—23 ozs.; 1 jar of Lemon Curd—1 lb.; 1 jar Jelly—8 ozs.; 4 jars of Jam—3 lbs. 8 ozs.; 2½ lbs. of Butter; 1 packet Sugar Smacks; 1 packet of Macaroni—1 lb.; 1 packet of Figs; and 1 packet of Sponge Mixture.

Food Quality, Description and Labelling.

During the year 307 samples of various foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst at the County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Constant sampling over a wide range of foodstuffs is carried out in order to check that a proper level of quality and food value is maintained in accordance with the law and the standard set by reputable manufacturers. Emphasis is on sampling of the commodities varying from time to time with changing trends and practices in the food trade.

Your Inspectors are constantly looking out for misleading descriptions and labels on all articles of food which lend themselves to such treatment, e.g. extravagant claims as to beneficial effects of consumption of the particular foods, inferior fruit labelled as being of a more choice variety, or absence of statement as to country of origin, thus implying that the food is English.

The number and variety of foods submitted for analysis were as follows:—

Milk 40; Peanut Butter 2; Puff Pastry 1; Cake and Bun Mixture 5; Sauce Powder 1; Canned Soup and Stew 10; Canned Fish 8; Canned Vegetables 11; Canned Vegetables and Meat Products 4; Canned Spaghetti 7; Canned Meat Product 24; Canned Rice Pudding 1; Bottled Baby Foods 3; Cheese and Tomtao Spread 2; Tea 8; Bronchial Mixture 1; Phosphorine Tablets 1; Tonic Tablets 1; Dried Milk 1; Butter 5; Margarine 9; Quaker Oats 1; Suet Dumpling Mix 1; Sponge Sandwich with Dairy Cream Filling 1; Plain Flour 1; Vinegar 3; Piccalilli 1; Sauce 9; Chutney 1; Salad Cream 2; Curry Powder 1; Browned Cinnamon 1; Soup Powder 4; Canned Soup 2; Canned Fruit 1; Canned Pudding 4; Canned Fruit Juice 1; Sausages 8; Potted Salmon 2; Soft Drinks 5; Honey 1; Fruit Curds 1; Prepared Icing 1; Glucose Syrup 1; Sugar Confectionary 5; Bottled Cherries 1; Bottled Olives 1; Angiers Emulsion 1; Laxative Chewing Gum 1; Cough Mixture 1; Milk of Magnesia 1; Liquid Paraffin 1; Epsom Salts 1; Condensed Milk 2; Sterilised Cream 1; Cooking Fat 2; Shredded Beef Suet 1; Maccaroni 1; Self Raising Flour 2; Non-brewed Condiment 1; Pickle 2; Fish Paste 2; Food Beverage 3; Milk Shake Syrup 1; Whisky 4; Rum 3; Marmalade 1; Jam 2; Sugar 1; Raisins 1; Saccharin Tablets 1; Vitamin Tablets 1; Glycerine and Honey 1; Aspirin Tablets 3; Cream 3; Dessicated Coconut 1; Marzipan 2; Breakfast Cereal 2; Sago 1; Christmas Pudding 1; Custard Powder 1; Baking Powder 1; Tomato Chutney 1; Tomato Ketchup 1; Milk and French Mustard 2; Ground Nutmeg 1; Dried Sago 1; Canned Vegetable Juice 2; Minced Chicken in Jelly 1; Minced Chicken 1; Potted Brawn 1; Dressed Crab 1; Cheese Spread 3; Sandwich Spread 1; Orange Squash 1; Fruit Juice and Syrup 2; Brandy 1; Gin 3; Instant Coffee 3; Minced Meat 2; Black Treacle 1; Icing Sugar 1; Icing Mix 1; Food Flavouring 2; Dates 1; Sweetening Pellets 1; Indigestion Tablets 1; Headache Tablets 1; Yeastvite Tablets 1; Vitamin Capsules 1; Children's Aspirin Tablets 2; Stuffing 4; Canned Soup and Broth 3.

Total Number of Samples	307
Genuine	304
Adulterated	3

The comparison with the previous years is as follows :—

Year	No. of Samples taken	Genuine	Not Genuine
1947	176	166	10
1948	200	183	17
1949	249	249	—
1950	242	232	10
1951	229	220	9
1952	259	250	9
1953	274	267	7
1954	240	236	4
1955	300	299	1
1956	312	304	8
1957	323	320	3
1958	337	326	11
1959	307	304	3

Number of samples taken per 1,000 of population—Estimated	6.5
47,500	
Percentage of Milks taken not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	Nil.
Percentage of Foods other than Milk not conforming to standards in relation to number taken	0.97

ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

During the year only three samples were reported upon as being adulterated.

They were three informal samples (one of Canned Spaghetti and two of Canned Beans and Bacon). They contained, respectively 410 p.p.m., 490 p.p.m. and 390 p.p.m. of tin (permitted maximum being 250 p.p.m.).

These three samples were part of a series of informal samples taken to gain information on the increase of tin content, which has been taking place in the heating of canned foods at the canteens of the Steel Co. of Wales, Margam, Port Talbot, where a firm, Messrs. Vendepac Ltd., has been engaged in the sale of hot and cold foods of all descriptions by the slot machine method. In order to gather information the firm had been working in collaboration with my department in submitting samples, for analysis, of cold tins and also tins which had been heated in slot machines for varying periods.

The sample of canned spaghetti and one of the samples of Canned Bacon and Beans had been subjected to heat (approximately 150°F) for seven days in hot machines and the remaining tin of canned beans and bacon was a cold tin. Guidance was given to the firm in question following the collation of full information gathered by these experiments and discussions.

THE SALE OF MILK REGULATIONS.

The regulations provide that unless milk contains a minimum of 3% fat and 8.5% milk solids other than milk fat, it shall be presumed—until the contrary is proved, that the milk is not genuine. It is claimed that there is a steady decline in the composition of milk in various parts of the country. The average percentage composition of the whole of the milk samples in the Borough of Port Talbot in 1959, was as follows:—

Number of milk samples taken.	Milk fat Percentage.	Non-fatty solids— Percentage.
40	3.77%	8.64%

The figures for the ten previous years were as follows :—

Year	No. of milk samples examined	Milk fat percentage	Non-fatty solids—percentage
1949	98	3.56%	8.67%
1950	118	3.63%	8.68%
1951	126	3.49%	8.65%
1952	133	3.55%	8.65%
1953	128	3.62%	8.66%
1954	104	3.66%	8.63%
1955	84	3.53%	8.66%
1956	72	3.60%	8.75%
1957	65	3.66%	8.45%
1958	69	3.66%	8.45%

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations 1925/1953

All the samples of milk, cream, condensed milk, sterilized cream and ice-cream were free from preservatives.

The following foods were reported upon as being free from sulphites:—Sponge Sandwich; Plain Flour; Potted Salmon; Honey; Fruit Curd; Prepared Icing; Bottled Cherries; Bottled Olives; Maccaroni; Fish Paste; Breakfast Cereals; Sago; Christmas Pudding; Custard Powder; Lemon Juice; Black Treacle; Sugar Confectionary; Sugar; Raisins; and Dressed Crab.

The analysis of the following foods showed them to be free from Boric Acid:—

Cheese and Tomato Spread; Fish Paste; Pepper; Foreign Fats; Margarine; Pork and Beef Sausages; Potted Salmon; Minced Chicken in Jelly; Minced Chicken; Dressed Crab; Cheese Spread.

The following were free from sulphites, Benzoic and Salycilic Acids:—Picalilli; Sauce; Chutney; Sweet Pickle; Marmalade; Jam; Tomato Ketchup; Tomato Chutney; Orange Squash; and Minced Meat.

The samples of Vinegar were shown to contain not more than a trace of arsenic and the curry powder contained lead to the extent of 1 p.p.m. The maximum allowed being 20 p.p.m.

Food Hygiene.

We are very pleased with the progress maintained in the many food premises throughout the borough. The standards are, indeed, good and we feel, very rewarding having regard to the efforts expended towards encouraging these improved standards. Whilst there is much improvement manifested in food hygiene practice in

the storage and the "behind-the-scene" parts of large food establishments, we still find premises where standards are not regularly maintained. Whilst Council has been somewhat generous to shortcomings associated with such lack of supervision and good general food practice, food trading interests will have themselves to blame for any statutory action taken against them unless a real attempt is made to rid their premises of such shortcomings and produce a better reaction to a good food hygiene code of conduct.

We still find that the facilities provided for the storage of food—particularly in grocers shops—are still inadequate. Sufficient consideration is still not being given to the planning and construction of food premises and the need of adequate storage arrangements. We must, however, record the co-operation and good-will of the trade generally towards improved standards, and there is certainly a good relationship between the trade and your Public Health Officers. We were reluctantly obliged to institute Magistrates' Court Proceedings in one case where previous warnings had failed to secure the desired result. This was the first case instituted under the Regulations and we certainly regret that such a course of action was necessary. This case is referred to under the heading of Magistrates' Court Proceedings.

Industrial Catering.

Several inspections of works' canteens were undertaken during the year. A good standard of food hygiene was very much in evidence and the food supplied was of good quality. The supply of hot meals through vending machines at the Steel Co. of Wales premises was not the success anticipated and the company has now reverted to the practice of over-the-counter service of hot meals. There is still, however, a total of 101 machines supplying snacks, hot and cold beverages, milk and candy at Abbey and Margam Works.

Beach Catering.

There is a progressively improved food hygiene standard in relation to premises and methods at the Aberavon Beach. The kiosks provided by Council serve a need and are of a very good standard. Council and its Market Superintendent are to be congratulated on their venture into catering by the establishment of a small Beach Tea and Snack Restaurant. Experience, however, indicated that a larger premises both for preparation, storage and refrigeration of food is necessary. I presume advantage will be taken of the experience obtained to still improve upon what was a very good experiment.

We record with much pleasure that nowhere in the Borough have we open shops selling food. We have no roadside stalls and we have no food of any description exposed for sale on footways or in front of shops.

ROYAL WELSH AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

The Royal Welsh Show was held at Margam during the month of July. We addressed a communication to all catering establishments associated with the Show drawing their attention to the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and inviting their co-operation to ensure a high standard of food service. I am, indeed, pleased to record that our approaches were welcomed and every co-operation was received. In every catering tent or kiosk adequate supplies of hot and cold water were installed for washing of hands and utensils. All drainage arrangements were supervised and approved.

The toilet and drainage systems were also the subject of detailed inspection and supervision. Although there was substantial catering under field conditions no complaints were received and no single case of food illness notified. There was, however, complimentary comment both by the catering trade and public in respect of food supply standards and toilet, etc., facilities.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959. THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949/53. THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949/54.

Port Talbot is a specified area and all milk sold must be designated milk. Accordingly the designated milks sold in the area are as follows:—

- (a) Pasteurised Milk.
- (b) Channel Island Pasteurised Milk.
- (c) Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk; and
- (d) Sterilised Milk.

The licences granted for the sale of these designated milks during 1959 were:—

Pasteurised:

(a) Dealer's Licence	31
(b) Supplementary Licence	3

Sterilised:

(a) Dealer's Licence	26
(b) Supplementary Licence	3

Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised:

(a) Dealer's Licence	25
(b) Supplementary Licence	3

All dairies and milk shops, etc., were regularly inspected throughout the year. Judicious sampling of all milk sold from wholesale and retail establishments and during delivery in various parts of the borough was maintained. The number of samples procured, the examination undertaken and the result of such examination were as follows:--

Nature of Examination	Number submitted	Number satisfactory	Number not satisfactory
Adulteration	40	40	—
Bacterial Purity	28	28	—

Sale of Milk from Vending Machines.

Three machines have now been installed in public thoroughfares in the Borough from which milk is obtained. Twenty machines are also sited in the Abbey Works and 10 in the Margam Works of the Steel Company of Wales Ltd. The precautions and conditions as indicated in last year's report are still enforceable and prove most effective.

Sale and Distribution of Milk.

As already indicated the whole of the milk sold in this borough is designated milk and the old practice of the milk vendor supplying milk from open cans has disappeared. Hygiene coupled with commercial necessity has abolished the old can and measure and the glass bottle has become firmly established within the trade.

Whilst we have striven for years to secure what was considered a most desirable method of retailing milk we did not, however, foresee some of the problems that would arise. These problems are—the dirty bottle, extraneous matter in bottles and the accumulation of empty bottles in back gardens and open spaces. The dairying trade is very concerned and would like to find a solution to these problems. As a result of discussions with dairy executives I am appreciative of the practical difficulties involved. In spite of the concern and efforts to solve these problems we continue to receive complaints for which no amount of prosecution can provide a remedy. The problem of the dirty bottle is indeed difficult. Used bottles in bad condition are returned in great numbers to our dairies. They contain soil, paraffin, cement, paint, home-perm solutions and other adhesive and transparent substances. Watchers are employed at dairy establishments to pick out grossly contaminated bottles which are separated and destroyed. Watchers are also employed to check on the cleanliness of bottles as they are carried along the belts from the washing machines and before they

are filled with milk. It is, however, the one bottle contaminated with some substance which does not show as the bottle comes from the washing machine to the filler which is most disquieting. In spite of every care and inspection it may be missed and delivered. The housewife may not notice the contamination until the bottle is turned upside-down when the milk is poured into a jug.

We have again taken up with the principal dairying firms in the area the question of the accumulation of empty milk bottles on waste land, open spaces, roadside and back lane cul-de-sacs and even in the back gardens of dwelling houses. Some of the effective remedies I had in mind were soon proved useless when the practical implications were explained by the dairying managements. However, I am satisfied that the efforts of these dairying firms is bringing about considerable improvement in the area. The menace of the discarded milk bottle became so serious on the premises of the Steel Company of Wales that action was taken by the Management to clear the site, and at present only milk in cartons is allowed into the works area. The used cartons are placed in litter bins and collected later.

These disturbing features of what was considered a hygienic method of milk distribution, and looked upon as an improvement on the old can and measure practice, are giving rise to much concern both to the dairying trade and Public Health authorities. Having regard to the problems arising out of the used bottles for the delivery of milk and the exclusive use of milk cartons on the premises of the Steel Company of Wales Ltd., may not the solution be in the single use-non returnable carton? The carton has many public health advantages. These and the important economic factors (the entire stock of a dairy may need replacing five or six times a year) are now being widely discussed in a renewal of interest. From an experience of the problem of milk delivery over a period of many years, I am beginning to wonder whether delivery of milk by glass bottles is already on the way out.

Inspection of Corporation Houses.

Inspection of Council houses is undertaken at irregular periods by the department. Arising out of 474 such inspections 13 Notices were served on occupiers. Inspection is also made of such houses during exchange or termination of tenancy. Such inspection is concerned with the maintenance of general cleanliness and the detection and eradication of vermin. A total of 355 houses were inspected for such purposes and in nine only were unsatisfactory conditions discovered. When unsatisfactory or verminous conditions are discovered in occupied houses, Notices are served upon tenants and a report submitted to your Housing Manager. The

obligation of maintaining clean conditions or the house free from vermin devolves, of course, upon the tenant. Difficulties may be associated with such verminous conditions or the occupier may be ignorant or even unaware of the source of the infestation, and is sometimes, very distressed as a result. In all such cases the assistance of the department is readily available by way of advice, and the provision of pesticides, and in extreme cases disinfestation is carried out.

Land Charges Act, 1935.

Solicitors acting on behalf of clients purchasing houses, enquire by application to the Town Clerk as to the existence of any charges, notices of repair or dilapidations or the proposals of the local authority in respect of such houses. Four hundred and sixty-five enquiries relating to such properties were received from the Town Clerk's Department, and dealt with during the year.

Rent Act, 1957—Rent Restriction Regulations, 1957.

During the year two Certificates of Disrepair were issued. An undertaking was received from one owner and four Certificates of Disrepair were cancelled.

Two owners completed the work specified in their undertakings and were given Certificates accordingly.

Water Supplies.

Three hundred samples of water were taken by your Inspectors for bacteriological examination and thirteen for chemical examination. The majority of these were taken from points throughout the area that would provide for a satisfactory check of the purity of the Borough's water supply. Of the three hundred samples taken for bacteriological examination eighty-three proved to be unsatisfactory; whereas three of the chemical samples were unsatisfactory, two of doubtful quality and the remaining eight satisfactory.

During the very dry summer months of 1959 extensive sampling of water was undertaken from various sources of supply within the borough with a view to augmenting where suitable our rapidly diminishing resources. Much of the unsatisfactory samples referred to were, therefore, as a result of our activities in our search for additional sources of supplementary water.

All the sampling results were examined by your Medical Officer of Health and copies of same forwarded to the Borough Surveyor.

Public Abattoir.

Council is, of course, aware of the generally unsatisfactory condition of the Abattoir. In spite of substantial repair and maintenance costs a good standard of slaughterhouse hygiene cannot be maintained and the premises cannot be reconditioned in such a manner as to comply with present day slaughterhouse legislation. Full and detailed particulars of its short comings are given in my special report to the Council in May of this year upon slaughtering facilities in the area. The only solution is the construction of a new Abattoir.

Your Inspectors continue on duty at the abattoir throughout the whole process of slaughtering. A hundred per cent meat inspection service continues to be maintained. All meat inspected is marked with the approved official stamp. The times of slaughtering varied considerably during the year. Your officers are still obliged to work much overtime. Slaughtering took place on Saturdays and a few Sundays, but, I am pleased to report that Sunday slaughtering has at the time of writing this report discontinued.

Particulars of diseased and unsound meat condemned at our Abattoir are found elsewhere in this report under the heading of "Meat and Other Food Inspection."

A total of 12,795 animals were killed and examined during the year, the figures for the previous ten years being as follows:—

1949	—	19,519	1954	—	44,497
1950	—	21,132	1955	—	30,693
1951	—	23,924	1956	—	18,721
1952	—	26,058	1957	—	11,047
1953	—	27,383	1958	—	12,590

ANNUAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE RETURNS.

The weekly slaughtering returns for 1959 were as follows :—

1959 Week Ending	BULLS, BULLOCKS AND HEIFERS				COWS				CALVES				SHEEP				Pigs			
	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total
Jan. 4	100	100	16	16	—	—	—	—	5	5	75	75	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
11	298	398	23	39	—	—	—	—	8	13	228	303	39	43	39	43	39	43	39	43
18	208	606	21	60	—	—	—	—	2	15	143	446	42	85	42	85	42	85	42	85
25	161	767	17	77	—	—	—	—	6	21	103	549	35	120	35	120	35	120	35	120
Feb. 1	194	961	15	92	—	—	—	—	4	25	130	679	45	165	45	165	45	165	45	165
8	177	1138	16	108	—	—	—	—	2	27	108	787	51	216	51	216	51	216	51	216
15	178	1316	17	125	—	—	—	—	4	31	107	894	50	266	50	266	50	266	50	266
22	163	1479	17	142	—	—	—	—	10	41	79	973	57	323	57	323	57	323	57	323
March 1	171	1650	18	160	—	—	—	—	11	52	112	1085	30	353	30	353	30	353	30	353
8	96	1746	10	170	—	—	—	—	5	57	55	1140	26	379	26	379	26	379	26	379
15	121	1867	15	185	—	—	—	—	5	62	57	1197	44	423	44	423	44	423	44	423
22	113	1980	17	199	—	—	—	—	7	69	42	1239	50	473	50	473	50	473	50	473
29	106	2086	8	207	—	—	—	—	19	88	42	1281	37	510	37	510	37	510	37	510
April 5	99	2185	15	222	1	1	—	—	4	92	32	1313	47	557	47	557	47	557	47	557
12	118	2303	16	238	—	—	—	—	3	95	49	1362	50	607	50	607	50	607	50	607
19	160	2463	13	251	—	—	—	—	5	100	66	1428	76	683	76	683	76	683	76	683
26	140	2603	12	263	—	—	—	—	3	103	68	1496	57	740	57	740	57	740	57	740
May 3	122	2725	14	277	—	—	—	—	3	106	57	1553	48	788	48	788	48	788	48	788
10	153	2878	10	287	—	—	—	—	2	108	89	1642	52	840	52	840	52	840	52	840
17	119	2997	6	293	—	—	—	—	2	110	78	1720	33	873	33	873	33	873	33	873
24	184	3181	15	308	—	—	—	—	2	112	111	1831	56	929	56	929	56	929	56	929
31	182	3363	13	321	—	—	—	—	2	114	128	1959	39	968	39	968	39	968	39	968
June 7	170	3533	13	334	—	—	—	—	1	115	122	2081	34	1002	34	1002	34	1002	34	1002
14	184	3717	16	350	—	—	—	—	3	118	131	2212	34	1036	34	1036	34	1036	34	1036
21	158	3875	9	359	—	—	—	—	5	123	113	2325	31	1067	31	1067	31	1067	31	1067
28	128	4003	7	366	—	—	—	—	1	124	93	2418	27	1094	27	1094	27	1094	27	1094
July 5	172	4175	11	377	—	—	—	—	4	128	115	2533	42	1136	42	1136	42	1136	42	1136
12	157	4332	9	386	—	—	—	—	2	130	116	2649	30	1166	30	1166	30	1166	30	1166
19	174	4506	13	399	—	—	—	—	4	134	125	2774	32	1198	32	1198	32	1198	32	1198
26	168	4674	10	409	—	—	—	—	4	138	119	2893	35	1233	35	1233	35	1233	35	1233
Aug. 2	239	4913	14	423	—	—	—	—	7	145	181	3074	37	1270	37	1270	37	1270	37	1270
9	272	5185	15	438	—	—	—	—	3	148	202	3276	52	1322	52	1322	52	1322	52	1322
16	205	5390	14	452	—	—	—	—	4	152	153	3429	34	1356	34	1356	34	1356	34	1356
23	216	5606	16	468	—	—	—	—	4	156	161	3590	35	1391	35	1391	35	1391	35	1391
30	247	5853	17	485	—	—	—	—	8	164	194	3784	28	1419	28	1419	28	1419	28	1419

Annual Slaughterhouse Returns—Continued.

1959 Week Ending	BULLS, BULLOCKS AND HEIFERS						COWS		CALVES		SHEEP		PIGS	
	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total	Weekly Total	Grand Total
Sept. 6	6173	320	502	17	502	—	1	9	173	258	4042	36	1455
13	6486	313	522	20	522	1	2	10	183	247	4289	35	1490
20	6837	351	538	16	538	—	2	13	196	288	4577	34	1524
27	7230	393	559	21	559	—	2	17	213	316	4893	39	1563
Oct. 4	7713	483	575	16	575	—	2	13	226	405	5298	49	1612
11	8204	491	593	18	593	—	2	18	244	408	5706	47	1659
18	8744	540	609	16	609	—	2	8	252	474	6180	42	1701
25	9363	619	627	18	627	—	2	10	262	549	6729	42	1743
Nov. 1	10021	658	647	20	647	—	2	8	270	589	7318	41	1784
8	10554	533	666	19	666	—	2	8	278	460	7778	46	1830
15	11107	553	675	9	675	—	2	6	284	489	8267	49	1879
22	11444	337	695	20	695	—	2	7	291	263	8530	47	1926
29	11723	278	710	15	710	—	2	9	300	207	8737	48	1974
Dec. 6	12019	296	728	18	728	—	2	7	307	227	8964	44	2018
12	12233	214	747	19	747	—	2	11	318	135	9099	49	2067
19	12508	275	766	19	766	—	2	8	326	144	9243	104	2171
31	12795	287	785	19	785	—	2	16	342	156	9399	96	2267

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condenned in Whole or in Part during 1959.

Number Killed Number Inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Cattle, excluding Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
											785	342				
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCOSIS.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	785	342	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whole carcasses condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	408	7	.....	.....	13	.....
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2009	627
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50.7	2.0	50%	21.3	27.6	.....
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whole carcasses condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	128	.....	.....	.....	.....	56
CYSTICERCOSIS.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16.25	.....	.....	.....	.....	234
General and totally condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercosis.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

We continued to give much of our time and attention during the year to Atmospheric Pollution within the Borough. Although some of the processes associated with industrial installations and giving rise to atmospheric pollution in the Borough have been transferred to the supervision of the Alkali Inspectorate much still remains under your control and supervision. Many of the chimney stacks of the Steel Company of Wales coming under our supervision have been fitted with density meters so that the emission of dark smoke can be recorded. Such records can, of course, be made available to the Council. I have not experienced any serious pollution from these chimney stacks during 1959.

Pollution from Open-Hearth Furnaces—Steel Co. of Wales.

There was considerable public reaction during the year against the atmospheric pollution arising from dense clouds of reddish-brown fume from the chimney stacks of the open hearth and bessemer furnaces, particularly in the town area. This reddish-brown fume arises from the oxygen method of refining in the open-hearth and bessemer furnaces. Oxygen is being used more and more and it seems clear that the present policy is one that will stay. Pollution from this source could be considerably reduced by the introduction of electro-static precipitator arrestors. Their provision would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds. Whilst, perhaps it would not be reasonable to demand their introduction in respect of the older furnaces, their provision should be required on all new furnaces. The Council deputation which met Mr. Cartwright in 1955 was assured that experiments were being undertaken with electro-static precipitators on their open hearth furnaces. We have later been informed that with the introduction of new and larger open hearth furnaces electro-static precipitators are to be introduced.

Pollution from such furnaces now comes under the administration supervision of the Alkali Inspectorate. I am, however, happy to report the co-operation and harmonious relationship that exists between us. We are also encouraged to freely contact the South Wales Inspector should any pollution arise that we may consider falls within his administrative province.

Following public complaints we discussed the red fume pollution with the Alkali Inspector. He was, of course, very much aware of the increase in this form of pollution. It was considered so fine a pollution as to be almost gaseous and of less serious effect than if it contained silicone, which would be present in other grit

deposits. He was appreciative of the excessive cost of providing arrestor equipment in open hearth furnaces. It is, of course, known that with the construction of new and larger open-hearth furnaces electro-static precipitators are to be installed. We were assured that this was a problem which the Alkali Inspectorate was pursuing with a great deal of energy. We were also assured that the local authority and its officers would be kept informed of all matters affecting atmospheric pollution within its area, which came within the administrative province of the Alkali Inspectorate.

Coal Dust Pollution.

Excessive dust and grit pollution was experienced during the year from the Phoenix Briquetting Works at the Docks. A meeting was arranged with the National Coal Board Group Manager and the local Manager at the works.

The Group Manager agreed that the dust nuisance had become more acute and was of the opinion that this was due in a great measure to the more adequate screening at the new washeries at Ogmore, which gave rise to a larger amount of "fines" being saved and consequently used in works such as we have at Port Talbot. The use of such fine coal really left only one answer to the problem and that was the installation of electro-static precipitators. This, of course, involves the capital expenditure of approximately £30,000. The expenditure of such a large capital sum would obviously mean that the National Coal Board would have to consider the economical aspect of the works very seriously, as at present, the works could not be considered an economic success.

However, we were informed that experiments were being carried out at the works regarding the decarbonization of briquets by the "low temperature method." If successful, this could mean that the National Coal Board would consider producing smokeless fuel, a product which must have great demand over the next years, due to the trend of Smokeless Zones under the Clean Air Act.

It will be appreciated that whilst we, as a department, have been considering the works from the aspect of the serious grit and dust nuisance, the National Coal Board are, at the same time, giving much thought as to future developments, if any. Both problems are closely allied because it is obvious that if the National Coal Board intend to modernise the works, then it was submitted that the smoke nuisance would be taken care of in a most efficient manner.

Wales Gas Board Installations at Aberavon.

Complaints were received during the year from the Victoria Road and Newbridge Road areas of Aberavon, arising from unpleasant odours emanating from the installations of the Wales Gas Board. Although these processes come under the supervision of the Alkali Inspectorate, the attention of the Gas Board Engineer was immediately drawn to the matter. I was informed that there was an unavoidable emission of an unpleasant nature due to the rare occurrence of an insufficient supply of gas being received from the Port Talbot Steelworks. The Wales Gas Board immediately had to make good this deficiency and during the warming up process the emission of this unpleasant odour was unavoidable. I understand that it will be rare for such an occurrence to happen and, apparently, only for a very short period.

A communication was addressed to the Alkali Inspector who immediately visited the works and called upon some of the people who had registered their complaints. The residents in the area were appreciative of the action taken.

Notification and Prior Approval of New Furnaces.

Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, requires all new furnaces (except domestic) to be capable of being operated continuously without emitting smoke when burning fuel of a type for which they were designed. The section also requires notification to the local authority when there is an intention to install a furnace in excess of 55,000 b.t.u.'s per hour. The furnaces referred to are industrial furnaces and other large furnaces such as may be found in hotels and blocks of flats, but, not small domestic appliances in houses, offices and shops. It is not necessary to submit plans and specifications when giving notice, for this is optional under Section 3 (2). The purpose of notification is to enable the Council and its Officers to know where and when new furnaces are being installed and we are not required on receiving notice, either to give or withhold approval. Where, however, a person proposing to install a new furnace submits plans and specifications to Council requesting Council's approval—which is known as "Prior Approval"—the Council can ensure that when the furnace is installed it is deemed to be capable of being operated so as not to contravene the provisions of the Clean Air Act, relating to smoke and grit emission. It may, therefore, be preferable to submit plans and specifications in order to ensure that there is no risk of committing an offence. It should always be understood, however, that approval by Council is in respect of furnaces and does not prevent proceedings being taken for the contravention of any other provisions of the Act, such as the improper use of the furnace causing the emission of dark smoke.

Section 10 of the Act controls the height of chimneys other than those of dwelling houses, shops and offices. The Council may reject any plans submitted if it is satisfied that the chimney is not of a sufficient height to prevent, as far as is practicable the smoke, grit, dust and gasses, arising therefrom, becoming prejudicial to health or a nuisance. Regard must be given to the purpose of the chimney, the neighbouring buildings, the levels of the neighbouring ground, and any other relevant matters.

During the year, 6 notifications of intention to install furnaces were received in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Act; of these Council was asked to give prior approval for two. In one case agreement was reached to raise the height of chimney stack from the 35 ft. submitted to 50 ft.

Smoke Control Area.

The establishment of a Smoke Control Area within the Borough was considered in 1957 when it was decided to defer consideration until a little more experience of the administration of the Provisions of the Clean Air Act was obtained. A further report was presented to Council in 1959 following receipt of Circular No. 5/59 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government calling the attention of local authorities to the need for the establishment of Smoke Control Areas. Having regard to the fact that our by-laws requiring new buildings to be provided with smokeless heating and cooking equipment had been confirmed by the Ministry and came into operation on the 1st April, 1959, consideration was given to the establishment of Smoke Control Areas on the new estates following the building of houses with special approved appliances. Having established such Smoke Control Areas on these new estates it was envisaged that we could extend the zoned areas outwards to include the older properties. Council was also satisfied that its recorded figures of industrial pollution showed a gradual downward trend although during the same period two new Blast Furnaces, two Bessemer Furnaces, a Sintering Plant and additional coking plant had been introduced in the Margam and Abbey areas. Nevertheless, it was considered that our recorded figures of industrial atmospheric pollution were still too high. Consideration was also given to the additional pollution now arising from oxygen infusion in the open-hearth furnaces, and producing a wide-spread dense, reddish-brown fume over the area. With such continued industrial pollution concern was felt as to the reaction of local property owners who would be called upon to contribute to the cost of adapting or converting fire-places, appliances, etc., and also compelled to use only approved fuels. It was felt that they would critically point their fingers to industry and submit that council

should concentrate its energies to a further reduction of pollution from this source before involving them in an expenditure to reduce the infinitesimal amount of pollution by comparison from the domestic grate. When lecturing to various local organisations on Smoke Pollution and the need of Smoke Control Areas, this point of view has invariably been emphasised. It is perhaps prudent, therefore, that we should endeavour to further concentrate on industry until there is a substantial reduction in our recorded pollution figures from this source. On the other hand, immediately a substantial number of houses are built containing, in conformity with the new by-laws, the approved smokeless heating and cooking equipment, I see no reason why there should not be immediately declared Smoke Control Areas and gradual but progressive efforts made to extend such areas outwards to the older properties. Having considered my report and having regard to the local conditions as already indicated, Council decided that the establishment of Smoke Control Areas should, for the time being, be deferred.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate—Royal Society of Health.

Mr. Lindsay Morgan was successful in obtaining the Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health during the year. There are now two of your Inspectors in possession of this Certificate—the other being Mr. Wyndham Cornelius. A third, however, Mr. David Griffiths, is undertaking a course of studies at Cardiff so as to enable him to qualify for the Certificate.

RECORDS OF DEPOSITED POLLUTION OF DUST, SOOT, Etc.

(In tons per square mile).

TOWN CENTRE.							
Month.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
January	17.76	22.48	17.84	27.76	35.60	24.23	23.31
February	20.68	19.56	13.43	12.28	26.14	27.37	7.11
March	18.54	19.56	30.72	12.74	30.36	3.99	40.70
April	16.60	10.50	22.36	19.93	9.95	10.93	20.08
May	15.41	19.27	28.69	15.84	18.86	24.60	7.31
June	19.00	24.10	28.75	19.29	14.06	15.94	17.32
July	33.06	26.05	20.80	21.77	21.25	21.38	19.60
August	25.63	20.35	12.88	30.49	23.18	15.41	12.01
September	36.12	35.56	23.12	19.66	25.13	28.26	8.20
October	23.61	29.89	24.33	19.33	28.32	21.17	33.88
November	24.10	36.75	30.59	14.42	14.39	9.81	38.42
December	11.92	23.86	23.63	33.79	36.39	26.54	53.87
TOTAL	262.42	287.94	297.14	247.30	283.63	229.63	281.81

TAIBACH							
Month.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
January	43.70	38.05	45.48	283.90	86.95	55.71	48.79
February	94.28	45.89	33.74	67.77	63.79	68.89	14.30
March	54.20	53.66	51.12	38.12	86.20	15.88	23.30
April	45.35	38.22	69.39	54.14	26.52	32.79	61.47
May	47.32	47.26	99.06	51.26	88.03	82.37	26.97
June	54.20	62.25	128.39	49.63	32.54	41.86	49.62
July	91.60	82.60	64.34	41.65	57.19	72.13	63.28
August	64.09	110.25	76.39	72.78	41.81	53.83	29.91
September	69.63	137.25	82.34	66.56	56.74	58.86	28.58
October	47.26	108.51	98.06	42.12	90.41	37.95	74.37
November	61.28	97.09	82.88	32.30	23.69	24.03	79.28
December	25.40	47.90	354.40	85.58	63.75	46.91	112.55
TOTAL	698.14	869.81	1186.23	885.81	717.62	591.21	612.42

ABERAVON.						
Month.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	
January		°	33.20	33.40	24.92	
February		14.68	29.72	38.93	14.29	
March		26.04	30.39	12.23	27.04	
April	18.95	14.44	9.08	10.60	23.16	
May	36.71	11.96	17.20	27.13	9.18	
June	24.35	17.16	14.09	18.13	19.91	
July	15.80	22.27	22.63	24.99	18.72	
August	16.92	20.81	31.19	18.12	19.62	
September	23.66	25.62	25.32	22.60	14.58	
October	27.54	24.95	32.48	20.84	43.44	
November	32.70	19.05	17.16	10.10	53.08	
December	39.18	49.11	25.81	30.72	48.01	
TOTAL	235.81	246.09	288.27	267.79	315.95	

° No result—broken bottle.

DEPOSITED POLLUTION OF DUST, SOOT, Etc.

(In tons per square mile).

Records supplied by the Steel Company of Wales

MONTH	PARK, PORT TALBOT			EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE			GENERAL OFFICES, BLOCK C. ABBEY WORKS.		
	1957.	1958.	1959.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1957.	1958.	1959.
January	61.05	41.39	34.65	57.85	32.36	61.73	98.26	48.65	39.30
February	30.85	110.71	10.70	37.83	70.47	13.41	63.02	116.00	17.25
March	24.09	5.38	26.18	31.39	7.57	32.22	17.97	8.15	36.41
April	11.28	30.42	27.39	47.03	34.51	37.08	11.70	28.97	22.36
May	25.04	45.09	32.48	27.22	43.26	25.15	27.20	37.67	38.78
June	15.53	35.95	25.85	22.52	34.23	32.14	18.73	29.85	37.02
July	42.10	32.89	23.40	39.44	42.12	31.08	60.61	56.88	31.79
August	26.72	26.63	4.71	53.08	22.09	5.41	87.94	50.12	18.60
September	27.50	28.11	14.29	39.95	40.93	15.92	51.68	47.80	24.60
October	45.97	26.02	47.61	22.99	34.33	40.68	62.02	38.94	49.05
November	18.65	18.63	35.27	24.31	19.89	27.48	22.91	25.30	59.84
December	41.27	29.58	51.17	39.91	44.76	68.87	52.73	48.30	49.12
TOTAL:	370.06	430.80	333.70	445.52	426.52	391.17	574.77	536.63	424.12

SULPHUR POLLUTION RECORDS

(Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method).

Month	1953			1954			1955			1956			1957			1958			1959		
	Town Centre	Taibach	Town Centre	Taibach	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	Taibach	Aberavon	Town Centre	
January	1.42	1.32	1.42	1.21	1.80	1.51	—	1.44	1.42	1.15	1.57	3.58	0.92	1.32	2.01	1.57	1.68	1.65	1.43	1.65	
February	1.86	1.13	1.47	1.23	1.10	1.03	—	1.22	1.08	1.28	1.51	1.76	1.49	1.47	2.22	1.13	1.39	1.72	1.58	1.72	
March	1.79	2.04	1.26	1.10	0.92	1.12	—	1.22	1.12	2.09	1.31	1.33	1.55	1.25	1.87	1.09	1.48	2.00	1.65	2.00	
April	1.02	0.92	0.99	0.98	0.89	1.06	0.68	1.03	1.17	0.75	0.76	0.83	0.62	1.17	†	0.78	1.82	2.14	0.79	2.14	
May	1.00	0.94	1.03	0.79	1.23	1.86	0.76	0.86	0.90	0.52	0.94	0.90	0.39	1.39	2.43	0.63	1.04	0.93	0.78	0.93	
June	1.23	0.74	1.16	0.82	0.98	1.01	0.69	1.09	1.54	0.50	0.84	0.68	0.45	0.87	1.47	0.74	0.94	1.22	0.47	1.22	
July	1.36	1.78	1.14	0.82	0.60	0.66	0.30	1.02	1.58	0.59	0.89	1.62	0.68	1.52	0.98	0.60	0.93	1.35	0.35	0.93	
August	0.82	0.69	0.90	0.69	0.64	0.72	0.57	0.95	1.31	0.44	0.91	1.04	0.68	1.01	1.12	0.68	0.64	0.75	0.50	0.64	
September	1.33	1.15	1.22	1.31	1.12	0.87	0.65	0.94	1.25	0.94	1.07	0.99	0.89	0.99	1.52	0.89	0.64	0.88	0.85	0.88	
October	0.94	0.94	1.76	3.29	1.34	0.85	0.86	1.05	1.27	0.75	1.30	1.91	1.31	°	1.67	0.77	1.11	1.45	1.13	1.45	
November	1.42	1.64	1.45	2.05	1.31	1.13	0.89	1.12	1.07	1.19	1.83	1.14	1.31	1.05	1.31	1.23	1.17	2.24	1.19	2.24	
December	1.39	1.41	1.59	1.40	1.81	1.81	1.18	1.20	1.59	1.22	1.22	1.75	0.60	1.22	1.45	1.47	1.32	3.56	1.02	3.56	

° Lead peroxide candle stolen.

† Lead peroxide candle blown over by high winds.

Station.	1952/53		1953/54		1954/55		1955		1956/57		1957/58		1958/59	
	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer
Town Centre	1.54	1.15	1.39	1.09	1.37	0.924	1.282	0.972	1.29	0.90	1.26	1.16	1.41	0.84
Taibach	1.47	1.06	1.32	0.89	1.42	1.024	1.312	1.316	1.77	1.01	1.77	1.50	2.23	1.03
Aberavon	..... This station came into being on 1st April, 1955.													
					0.76	0.594	1.318	0.598	1.19	0.57	1.30	0.71	1.37	0.59

PORT TALBOT RAINFALL.

(Rainfall in inches).

Town Centre.					
Month.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
January	2.47	5.32	3.52	3.76	4.45
February	2.40	0.32	4.71	4.57	0.38
March	2.27	1.45	5.06	0.26	4.60
April	3.01	1.75	0.36	0.65	4.02
May	4.67	1.17	1.92	3.39	0.67
June	5.46	2.12	0.64	3.58	2.77
July	0.51	4.33	3.69	3.94	2.96
August	0.78	5.83	4.31	2.98	1.41
September	2.63	4.93	6.05	6.70	0.35
October	2.23	1.07	4.50	5.18	4.89
November	3.54	1.22	2.10	3.31	7.09
December	6.03	4.28	2.57	4.94	6.05
Totals	36.00	33.88	39.42	43.26	39.64

Groes.					
Month.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
January	3.36	5.52	3.67	3.71	4.89
February	2.87	0.34	4.72	4.94	0.45
March	2.40	1.84	5.26	0.91	4.43
April	3.33	1.75	0.43	0.76	3.59
May	4.13	1.41	2.24	4.94	0.83
June	5.13	2.75	1.03	4.51	2.74
July	0.84	4.13	3.97	4.80	2.90
August	0.81	5.33	4.37	5.48	1.60
September	2.03	5.39	6.94	8.62	0.37
October	2.30	1.28	4.44	4.54	5.24
November	4.16	1.34	2.06	3.41	6.91
December	7.37	5.59	2.65	5.25	8.83
Totals	38.37	36.67	41.78	51.87	42.78

Taibach.					
Month.	1955.	1956	1957.	1958.	1959.
January	2.77	5.00	3.03	3.38	4.63
February	2.27	0.24	4.47	4.92	0.36
March	2.33	1.45	4.40	0.73	4.79
April	2.71	1.50	0.24	0.58	4.04
May	4.27	0.99	1.85	3.91	0.76
June	5.23	1.92	0.73	4.10	2.42
July	0.59	4.55	3.37	5.18	3.00
August	0.69	5.15	4.38	5.05	1.38
September	0.94	4.84	6.28	7.43	0.28
October	2.15	0.77	3.99	5.55	5.23
November	3.92	1.00	1.89	3.20	6.48
December	6.24	5.41	2.30	2.30	6.00
Totals	35.11	32.82	37.03	46.33	39.37

ABERAVON.					
Month.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959
January	—	°	3.76	3.92	4.64
February	—	0.35	4.93	5.55	0.41
March	—	1.45	5.36	0.97	4.47
April	2.96	1.52	0.34	0.83	3.77
May	4.76	1.28	1.91	5.09	0.81
June	5.84	2.58	0.94	4.77	3.33
July	0.78	4.17	3.89	5.46	2.53
August	0.94	5.27	4.46	4.81	1.56
September	2.64	5.03	5.82	7.08	0.33
October	2.27	1.20	4.77	4.93	5.44
November	4.36	1.07	2.04	3.34	7.17
December	5.82	5.77	2.66	4.93	5.94
Totals	30.37	29.69	40.88	51.78	40.40

° No result—Broken Bottle.

PORT TALBOT SUNSHINE. (Sunshine in hours).

Groes.					
Month.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
January	37.5	50.2	49.6	51.1	72.3
February	86.1	97.8	91.4	45.1	88.1
March	173.7	163.0	84.3	107.2	93.1
April	158.4	176.4	172.2	108.1	124.7
May	202.7	228.1	205.2	166.0	193.8
June	81.6	153.6	288.3	166.0	208.9
July	252.5	146.7	147.4	107.8	194.0
August	212.5	177.4	147.4	88.0	163.6
September	162.3	74.3	90.0	106.2	206.2
October °	119.9	95.0	82.4	85.8	°
November	82.6	60.1	62.3	40.0	°
December	21.9	22.5	56.2	23.4	32.7
Totals	1591.7	1445.1	1476.7	1094.7	1355.4

° Records Incomplete.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The following is a report of the work carried out during the year.

Our sewers, refuse dumps and numerous dwelling houses and business premises were treated for rat infestation during the year.

The 50% grant of our total irrecoverable expenditure from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is no longer paid to local authorities.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1959.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL			Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3 (4)	Agricul- tural (5)
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling- houses (inc. Council houses) (2)	All Other (inc. Business Premises) (3)		
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	25	14424	2035	16484	61
11. Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification	12	294	51	357	14
(b) Survey under the Act ..	7	317	28	352	41
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	5	399	571	975	9
111. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections (to be completed only if figures are readily avail- able)	187	5125	395	5707	189
IV. No. of properties inspected (in Sec. 11) which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats: Major	19	34	13	66	10
Minor	—	453	24	477	26
(b) Mice: Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	5	—	5	—
V. No. of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should not exceed those given in Sec. IV)	19	492	37	548	36
VI. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	19	611	79	709	55
VII. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act—					
(a) Treatment	—	5	4	9	4
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	5	4	9	4
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice under Sec. 4 of the Act.....	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

Nature and Number of Baits Laid.

Pre-poisoning baits	14,298
Poison Baits:—Tomorin	1,705
Red Squill	200
Warfarin	1,451
Arsenious Oxide	318
Zinc Phosphide	521

Maintenance Treatment of Rats in Sewers.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food a percentage of our sewer manholes are treated twice annually. Brief particulars of both treatments during 1959 are as follows:—

TREATMENT.	June, 1959.	December, 1959.
No. of manholes baited	315	462
No. of manholes showing bait taken	309	318
BAIT USED.	Zinc Phosphide & Sausage Rusk.	Arsenious Oxide & bread mash.

FACTORIES.

The activities of your Chief Public Health Inspector's Department in relation to those duties imposed upon this Council by the Factory Acts of 1937 and 1948 were as follows:—

1.—Inspection of Factories.

Premises on Register (1)	Inspection (2)	Number of written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
273	652 — —

2.—Particulars Found in Factories.

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND								
Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Cases in which prosecutions were instituted			
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	10	10	—	—	—			
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—			
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—			
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	3	3	—	—	—			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—								
(a) Insufficient	—	3	—	3	—			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	5	—	1	—			
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—			
TOTALS	17	21	—	4	—			

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Over a period of years the lodging houses in the borough have reduced in number from 7 to 2. One is situated at Cwmavon Road and the other at Green Park. With the demolition and clearance of Green Park as a residential area the lodging house, which has been in existence for over 80 years, will disappear. Both lodging houses require constant supervision.

58 visits of inspection were made during 1959; some of these visits being made late at night.

From time to time a check is made of the number of lodgers accommodated. The number of beds and the number of lodgers for both premises during the year were as follows:—

Premises.	No. of beds allowed	No. of Lodgers accommodated.	Amount of spare accommodation.
40/42 Cwmavon Road	55	8	47
55/57 Green Park	52	26	26
Total	107	34	73

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The offensive trades established within the borough are those of fat melting and extracting and rag and bone collection. From time to time complaints were received of the offensive smells from the fat boiling and extracting premises. As a result, constant check and supervision has been exercised over this business and having regard to the nature of the business, the occasional failure of the human element amongst those engaged, the concern and vigilance of the proprietor has indeed been commendable.

54 visits of inspection were made during the year.

CINEMAS.

A total of 45 visits of inspection were made of the five cinemas of the Borough. Some of these inspections were carried out during the evening performance, sometimes accompanied by the fire service officer of the Glamorgan County Council, other times unaccompanied. The five cinemas are licensed annually when reports of the Council's Officers and those of the Fire Service Officer are considered at a meeting of the Cinema Licensing Committee. The reports direct the attention of the Committee to the structural condition, suitability and sufficiency of ventilation, heating, lighting, cleanliness, decoration and means of protection and escape from fire, etc. With perhaps one exception the general hygienic condition of our cinemas during 1959 was of a very satisfactory standard.

SLUM CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES.

In the approved Five Year Slum Clearance Programme 43 single or individual houses were scheduled for demolition by the Demolition Order procedure and 515 houses for demolition by the Clearance or Compulsory Purchase procedure.

Progress Report:

The progress already made with our five year programme is as follows:—

First Year Programme:

43 Demolition or Closing Orders were made in respect of individual unfit houses, and following a Public Inquiry the Compulsory Purchase Orders in respect of 128 houses in Clearance areas were confirmed. These clearance areas were:

Richard Street. Picton Street. Charles Street. Craddock Street.
Mountain Row. Wern Place. Wern Square.

A large number of families from these houses have already been rehoused.

Second Year Programme:

During the year, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed Orders in respect of the following houses:—

Area :	No. of houses :
Pantdu (Clearance Orders)	43
Cwmavon Road (Clearance Order)	4
Cwmavon Road and Talbot Street (Compulsory Purchase Order)	4
Greenpark Street (Compulsory Purchase Order)	54
	<hr/> 105 <hr/>

One Demolition Order and ten Closing Orders were made in respect of single or individual unfit houses.

Third Year Programme:

At the time of writing this report the detailed inspection of all the houses included in the third year programme has been completed and before the end of 1960 the following houses will be included in resolutions declaring them to be Clearance Areas:—

Area :	No. of houses :
Tyr Arthur Row, Cwmavon	24
Tewgoed Row, Cwmavon	18
Engine Row, Cwmavon	14
Copper Row, Cwmavon	28
Vivian Row, Aberavon	9
Water Street and Park Row, Aberavon	9
	<hr/> 112 <hr/>

It is pleasing to record that re-housing from slum properties has progressed during the year in a satisfactory manner.

Fourth and Fifth Year Programmes:

The fourth and fifth year programmes are as follows:—

Fourth Year:

Area :	No. of houses :
Balaclava, Taibach	16
Constant Hill, Taibach	2
Inkerman Row (East), Taibach	10
Commercial Road, Taibach	3
Merthyr Row, Cwmavon	7
Church Square, Cwmavon	13
London Row, Cwmavon	29
Cross Row, Cwmavon	16
	<hr/> 96

Fifth Year:

Area :	No. of houses :
Penycae Row, Port Talbot	28
Lletty Harry, Port Talbot	14
Oakwood Row, Pontrhydyfen	29
Schoolroom Row, Pontrhydyfen	4
Corlannau, Aberavon	12
	<hr/> 87

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The investigation of the general conditions associated with cases of infectious disease notified is undertaken by your Public Health Inspectors. The isolation of patients, contact and possible source of infection is checked. Cases are sometimes reported which afterwards prove to be negative. All reported cases are, therefore, investigated and disinfection and other precautions carried out, regardless of whether they are afterwards proved to be negative.

Disinfection is also undertaken in cases of tuberculosis and cancer and in respect of other illnesses and diseases, on request. Much bedding and clothing is disinfected by steam at the Groeswen Hospital, by permission of the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee.

The number of inspections made during the year under the heading was 94 and a total of 185 houses and 149 lots of bedding, clothing, etc., was disinfected.

The cases dealt with during 1959 were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	54
Meningitis	1
Food Poisoning	4

MAGISTRATES' COURT PROCEEDINGS

We were reluctantly obliged to institute the following prosecutions during the year :—

Offence.

Result.

Mr. Bryn Davies, Butcher, The Market Hall, Aberavon. Contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 — Food: i.e. Meat. brought into contact with materials not so constructed as to be kept in good order of repair and condition to enable them to be thoroughly cleansed i.e. waste cardboard.

Fined £4 and costs.

Mr. Leonard David Griffiths, 23 Vivians Terrace, Aberavon. Contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Food Hygiene Regulations, 1957—

Fined a total of £100.

(a) Having in his possession foods unfit for human consumption.

(b) Filthy condition of premises and equipment.

Mr. Williams, Pentwyn Farm, Baglan — Contraventions of Public Health Act, 1936 — Defective drainage to farm buildings.

Court Order for two months and costs.

Mr. Carol Ciano, Penrhiwgoch Cottage, Baglan—Contraventions of Public Health Act, 1936 Improper keeping of animals (pigs).

Court Order for three months and costs.

Messrs. Vendepac Limited Abbey Works, Port Talbot—Contravention of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—

(a) Sale of Blackcurrant Fruit Pie unfit for human consumption.

(b) Sale of Blackcurrant Fruit Pie not of the substance demanded.

Fined £25 and costs awarded. The bakers, Messrs. Griffiths (Barry) Ltd., were dismissed from the case and their costs amounting to £10 10s., were allowed against Messrs. Vendepac).

